

Turkish court to decide if Kurd report 'criminal'

ANKARA (R) — A Turkish court is set to decide this week whether to press charges over a report on the thorny Kurdish issue, but analysts say the document has already caused so much rancour that its value may be lost whatever the verdict.

The report, commissioned by the Union of Chambers and Trade Bourses (TOBB), said support for Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) rebels would weaken if the government heeded Kurds' social and economic grievances and tolerated pro-Kurdish sentiments.

Ankara's state security court is reviewing the report to see if its mention of possible federation with Kurds and the use of Kurdish as a second official language constitutes a crime.

"You shall see in the next few days that we decide," court prosecutor Nuh Mete Yuksel told Reuters. "I can say no more."

He said earlier that charges could be brought — he did not say against whom — under Article 8 of a tough anti-terror law, which bans propaganda threatening of unity of the state.

Western analysts said the uproar over the report had again revealed just how hard it was to initiate serious debate on the status of Turkey's Kurds. More than 17,500 people have killed in the PKK's 11-year insurgency.

"If anyone was so stupid as to decide charges could be... brought it would possibly be the silliest thing the Turkish administration has done this year," a Western diplomat said.

"It would play incredibly badly in Europe."

Turkey, hoping the European Parliament will ratify a lucrative customs union deal with Ankara in October, is being monitored closely by

Europe for signs of democratic progress.

Scrapping or amending Article 8 has been cited as a condition for the European Parliament's customs union approval.

Prime Minister Tansu Ciller managed last month to bludgeon through parliament a package of reforms to Turkey's 1982 military-era constitution, and promises further progress.

But diplomats say a serious debate about Turkey's problems — necessary for serious reform — has yet to materialise.

"The usual gut instinct reaction of the Turkish ruling classes is that the issue is sacrosanct and should not be discussed," said a European diplomat. "But it is high time this discussion received a wider airing."

The TOBB report came with the hope it would be taken seriously due to its mainstream patrons. Liberals and intellectuals pleaded in newspaper columns for calm and constructive discussion.

But instead, the report and its author Dogu Ergil — a respected Ankara professor — have been lambasted by conservative politicians, journalists and security officials as biased towards the Kurds and bent on breaking up the country.

"Turkey's most crucial problems have not been evaluated scientifically now," Mr. Ergil told Reuters.

The issue at hand is all the problems of instability, economy, democratisation and national unity. We opened this concept to discussion. But everyone panicked without reading the report."

Even the Ernak, the PKK's political arm, said in a statement last week that the report "reflected the logic of the state."

"If even they slam it I suggest the report is not far off the mark," one Western analyst said. "It's what (politicians) don't want to hear but what they know to be true — what does come as a surprise is that it was ever produced, especially given TOBB's closeness to Ciller."

Some people suggest that Ms. Ciller was behind the report, which she hoped would pave the way for further democratic reform.

Betselem: Israelis killed 100 Palestinians since intifada

The Jerusalem Post

ISRAELIS have killed 100 Palestinians in the territories since the start of the intifada in 1987, according to the Betselem human rights organisation.

The following is a partial chronology of incidents in which settlers shot and killed or wounded Palestinians from April 1991 to September 1994, as compiled by Betselem:

September 1994: Halloum man killed after being shot by settlers who said they had been stoned while driving through the village.

April 1994: A Palestinian woman was fatally wounded in her home north of Jerusalem by a stray bullet fired by a settler shooting in the air at stone throwers.

February 1994: Tomb of the Patriarchs massacre by Kiryat Arba resident Baruch Goldstein. Twenty-nine kil-

led.

December 1993: Three Arab labourers killed near Hebron. Each claims responsibility.

December 1993: Arab from eastern Jerusalem riding in a taxi killed as settler opens fire when taxi did not heed calls to halt.

December 1993: Palestinian tractor driver killed in the Hebron area.

March 1993: Settler shoots terrorist who had already been captured and tied up, killing him.

January 1993: Gaza youth killed as Jewish resident shoots at group stoning him.

June 1991: Settler kills shepherd in land dispute near Hebron.

April 1991: Palestinian's body found near Eilon Moreh. He was killed by a settler who was involved in another Palestinian's death three months earlier.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

14:00 Captain Planet

14:30 M.A.N.T.I.S.

15:00 Blue Heevers

16:00 Families

17:00 Children's Programme — Doug

17:30 Montagne

17:50 Taras

18:00 News in French

18:30 The Best of the Best

19:30 News Headlines

19:35 You Be Your Life

20:00 Fight Files

20:30 The Bold and the Beautiful

21:15 True Blue

22:00 News in English

22:25 The Fire Next Time

23:30 New York Undercover

23:30 Grace Under Fire

PRAYER TIMES

04:30 Fajr

05:54 (Safar) Dhu'l

12:40 Dhu'l

16:15 Asr

19:26 Magrib

20:58 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church

Syriac Tl: 810740

Assumption of God Church, Tel.

632785

St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590

Church of the Annunciation Tel.

637440



DENIED ENTRY: An Israeli soldier orders a Palestinian family to leave the Erez crossing area after the Israeli army announced that the Gaza Strip would remain sealed off from Israel until Monday dawn. The closure was imposed on Thursday in what Israel described as a measure to prevent Palestinian militant attacks inside Israel (AFP photo)

Libya herding Palestinians into border camps'

ALGIERS (AFP) — A Palestinian representative in Algiers has accused Libyan authorities of rounding up Palestinian workers in Libya under very difficult humanitarian conditions with a view to expulsion.

In a statement, Adli Sadek, the Palestinian charge d'affaires in Algiers, said Libyan authorities were conducting a campaign against Palestinians working in Libya, regrouping them in border camps near Egypt "in anticipation of their expulsion."

He said he had "postponed for a long time the announcement of this campaign against the Palestinians in the hope that the (Libyan) officials themselves give up this hostile behaviour which has no justification," the statement said.

Libyan authorities have said that these measures were taken following the

autonomy accord signed in 1993 between Israel and the Palestinian Liberation Organisation, Sadek said.

The Palestinian official dismissed as unconvincing the Libyan explanation for the "regroupment of Palestinian families in the Saharan in very difficult humanitarian conditions." The statement did not specify what these were.

Mr. Sadek said the measures were part "of a plan aiming to tighten the net around the Palestinians at a regional level" and appealed to Libya to "respect the minimum of rules of conduct between brothers in this difficult phase of the history of the Arab Nation."

Libyan television rejected Sunday accusations by Cairo that Tripoli was expelling Egyptian workers.

It cited the Egyptian

charge d'affaires in Libya as saying that Egyptian workers were receiving "close attention from the Libyan authorities."

The Egyptian envoy, according to Libyan television, said that Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa had spoken by telephone to Libyan Minister for Unity Jomaa Al-Fazzani in order to "clear up any misunderstanding."

The Egyptian head of customs at Sallum border post, Mohammad Al Adl, told AFP on Thursday that some 2,500 Egyptians had been thrown out of Libya in the preceding 48 hours.

Tripli said Friday it had taken no measures against the Egyptians.

There are nearly 1.5 million Egyptian workers (in Libya) cooperating with their Libyan brothers in developing the country," Mr. Fazzani said

Mr. Musa said in a statement Friday that his ministry was "in contact with Libyan officials in order to stop the expulsions of Egyptian citizens."

He added that Mr. Fazzani had admitted to the expulsions, saying that all the Egyptians came from one region in Libya, which he did not identify.

Mr. Fazzani said their expulsion "was linked to a situation in this region," Mr. Musa said.

Between 800,000 and 900,000 Egyptians work in Libya.

Egyptian police sources at Sallum said the expulsions had been decided for security reasons following unrest last June at Bengazi, in the east of the country, which Tripoli attributed to Islamic militants "who had infiltrated the country from Egypt and Sudan."

Reprisals from the leaders," said Mr. Musa.

"The emirs told us that if they could, they would have killed us, and that they hoped we would be executed by their collaborators outside prison," he added.

Mr. Mansour said he knew of one prisoner whose tongue was partially cut off by fellow prisoners after repenting.

In 1994 militant groups announced a "fatwa" (religious ruling) branding those who repented as "apostates." But to date there have been no reports of murders of participants in the "repentance" programme.

Prison officials bring in government sheikhs to provide religious teaching for prisoners who express an interest in repenting.

Upon their release, the Interior Ministry gives each repentant militant 200 Egyptian pounds (\$55). In 1994, it also promised to provide them jobs.

"The security services assured me that I'd get back my post in the electric company," Mr. Musa said.

Family of bomb suspect heads for New York trial

AMMAN (AP) — The parents of a suspect in the World Trade Centre bombing left Monday for New York to attend their son's trial.

They told the Associated Press that her son had called on Thursday and "he sounded relaxed and confident that he will be acquitted."

She said the Ministry of Foreign Affairs had helped her; her husband Mahmoud, and brother, Ali Nijm, obtain a one-year visa for the United States.

Mrs. Nijm said her husband had to sell his "small lathe shop to buy us the airplane tickets and get some cash to cover our expenses in the United States."

Mr. Nijm, a resident of the city of Jerash, was detained by authorities here Aug. 1 and was flown to the United States two days later.

His family and acquaintances said that he was fond of the United States and that he had no previous criminal record — an assessment supported by Jordanian authorities.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Rafsanjani appoints brother as vice-president

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iranian President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani on Monday appointed his brother to the post of presidential chief of staff, officials said. Mohammad Hashemi, who will be one of Mr. Rafsanjani's seven vice presidents, has previously served as first deputy foreign minister and the head of the state-run radio and television organisation. He replaces Hamid Mirzaei, who was named Saturday as the new vice president in the charge of the budget and planning organisation after the resignation of Massoud Roghani-Zanjani. Mr. Roghani-Zanjani stepped down over his alleged opposition to the government's departure from free-market policies.

Muslims in Lebanon collect funds for Bosnia

SIDON (AFP) — Muslims in the southern port of Sidon have collected 15 million Lebanese pounds (about \$9,000) for Bosnian Muslims as part of a campaign launched last week. Collection boxes have been placed in mosques throughout Sidon and worshippers are encouraged to deposit donations after prayers, according to Sheikh Mohammad Selim Jalladeen, the mufti of south Lebanon. The campaign was launched on August 8 to coincide with the anniversary of the birth of Prophet Mohammad and will last till the end of the month. Sheikh Jalladeen also renewed an offer he had made two years ago to take in 100 Bosnian Muslim children at a Sidon orphanage.

Egypt's first female journalist dies at 81

CAIRO (AP) — Amina Al Saeed, Egypt's first women journalist and a leading feminist, has died of cancer. She was 81. Saeed, who continued writing an advice column in the weekly magazine Al Musawar this year, died Sunday night in Cairo. She was considered Egypt's first female journalist, as a student at King Fouad I University in Cairo in 1932 and later as a professional after graduating in 1935. Saeed was editor of Egypt's first magazine for women, Hawaa, which she founded in 1954. Throughout her 63-year career, she was a fervent proponent of women's rights and scolded the younger generation of women for not advancing the cause. "If contemporary Arab women are honest... they will recognise that they have not added anything to the efforts to those who have gone before and that they have not been part of any effort worth mentioning in advancing the feminist cause," she once wrote. Saeed contracted cancer several years ago. She is survived by two sons and a daughter. Her funeral was scheduled for Monday.

Sudanese celebrate capture of town

KHARTOUM (R) — Thousands of Sudanese marched through the streets of Khartoum on Monday to celebrate the reported capture by government troops of a rebel town on a key supply route near Uganda. Sudan said its army had taken Kaya at sunset on Saturday from the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), which held the small town for over six years. The march ended at the army's general command where First Vice-President Major-General Al Zubir Mohammad Saleh told the crowds all rebel-held land would soon be liberated. The army's capture of Kaya was the first major offensive reported since the government and southern separatist rebels agreed to a ceasefire four months ago.

Greenpeace to highlight Turkish pollution

ISTANBUL (R) — Greenpeace said on Monday it would send a ship to a filthy bay on Turkey's Aegean coast to highlight the pollution there. The environmental group also vowed to rally support against French and Chinese nuclear testing during the August 16-20 stopover at the western Turkish port city of Izmir, a Greenpeace statement said. The Greenpeace ship *Albatross* will stop at Izmir as part of a four-month tour through the Mediterranean, the statement said. Izmir Bay is considered by some environmentalists to be one of the most polluted in the Eastern Mediterranean area.

HIJAZ RAILWAY TRAIN

Dep. Amman 21:00 every Monday
Arr. Damascus 05:00 p.m. every Monday
Dep. Damascus 06:30 p.m. every Monday
Arr. Amman 07:30 a.m. every Sunday
Dep. Amman 08:00 every Sunday

MARKET PRICES

Uppper/lower price in fils per kg.

Apple 700/500
Banana 600
Bananas (Mukammal) 620
Cabbage 120/80
Cauliflower 280/180
Cucumbers (large) 1

AY. AUGUST 15, 1995

to suspect York trial

she told the Association that her son had been released and "he seems relaxed and confident," he said. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs had been in touch with Ali Nijm, the brother, Ali Nijm, the one-year visa for the United States.

Mr. Nijm said her husband had to sell his shop to buy a plane ticket and get enough to cover our expenses.

Mr. Nijm, a resident of Jerash, was detained here two days later, his family and sources said that he was found no previous criminal record — an assessment made by Jordanian authorities.

BRIEF

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World News



BULLFIGHTER IN TROUBLE: Spanish bullfighter Pepin Liria tries to protect himself from a fighting bull that had thrown him to the ground during a bullfight in Gijon Sunday. Liria, in his first appearance since being injured in the bullring of the French city of Mont de Marsan last July, had some difficulties with the bulls but was not injured.

Spain lags in
sex education

KOHOMA (R) —

Location in Japan lagging the West and poor children to achieve a damaging their future. Japanese schools in Japan has yet to set up specialised research and does not have sex education programs. Seiichi Matsunaga, the organiser of the World Congress of Sex Education, says that sex education is far behind in other countries. Matsunaga is not talk as much as people developed come the Japanese media in about sex from pornographic videos and the media added that the media provided "irresponsible" inflammatory images of "giving women feeling of insulted and more of inferiority. So sure to do well in competitive education, students little more. Matsunaga at time children did not often spent shut in doors playing video games in poor internet which could damage sexuality in the future.

General makes
illusions in
nurses
arrests
Basques

ORD (AFP) — A

general suspected in his killing of Basque separatists by the government, a commando group, a newspaper reported. General Enrique Iglesias Galindo, one of the Civil Guard's Basque region, sed the equivalent of a million from the

90 busts his party forces have made in 1980, the daily El Mundi reported. Each bust received a huge sum of \$16,000 to \$40,000. The paper said the amount caused an increase in month by prominent Rodriguez from one general. The party's vice-president, Pat Doherty, told BBC radio that there was no threat to the Irish Republican Army would resume its 25-year war on Britain despite deadlock in a fledgling Anglo-Irish peace plan.

He repeated Mr. Adams' accusation that Britain had brought the peace process to the brink by refusing to convene all-party talks until the IRA and its Protestant loyalist rivals disarm.

"It is not under the threat of a return to violence. This peace process is in a crisis because the British government is refusing to move to all-party talks."

Mr. Doherty was defending Mr. Adams against an off-the-cuff remark on Sun-

Sri Lanka to block Indian extremists on island

COLOMBO (R) — Sri Lanka is sending troops to a tiny island in the Palk Strait close to the maritime boundary with India to block efforts by extremists in the southern Indian state of Tamil Nadu to hoist the Indian flag on the island, military sources said on Monday.

"An extremist group in Tamil Nadu is planning to come and hoist the Indian flag on Kachchaitivu by the end of the year," a senior military officer told Reuters.

"We're sending troops and navy patrol boats to stop them," he said.

He identified the group as the Pattali Makkal Katchi, an

extremist Tamil group whose members have sometimes voiced support for the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam rebels, who are fighting for an independent home-land for minority Tamils in Sri Lanka's north and east.

"We're also sending a police contingent. We plan to put up a naval screen to prevent any attempt by the extremists to land," the sources said.

A senior navy officer said the navy already had gun-boats patrolling the sea near the island, 64 kilometres from the Sri Lankan mainland.

But diplomats said India was likely the extremists before they set out for Kachchaitivu, which was ceded to Sri Lanka under the 1974 Indo-Lanka maritime boundary pact.

"It is more practical for the Indians to stop them on their side of the maritime boundary," one diplomat said.

The move to hoist the Indian flag on Kachchaitivu by the group, which says India should retrieve the island from Sri Lanka, may have been planned to coincide with India's independence day on Tuesday, sources said.

Extremist groups in Tamil Nadu have been putting pressure on the central government to take back Kach-

chaitivu, which was ceded to Sri Lanka under the 1974 Indo-Lanka maritime boundary pact.

"There was a dispute as to the rights pertaining to the island," a diplomat told Reuters. "India accepted Sri Lanka's claim."

He said the deal gave Indian fishermen access to the island to dry their nets. It also allowed Indian pilgrims to visit the island without visas for an annual church festival.

"The church is the only habitation there," he said. "There used to be an annual festival."

The festival has not been held since fighting between Tamil rebels and Sri Lankan government forces intensified in the mid-1980s, he said.

Tamil rebels used Tamil Nadu as a support base for attacks in Sri Lanka during the 1980s, when New Delhi turned a blind eye to their operations and even secretly trained and armed them.

India cracked down on the rebels after a Tiger suicide bomber blew up former Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi in Tamil Nadu in 1991.

But the Tigers still maintain a network and are known to have support among extremist Tamils there.

13 killed in Karachi amid independence celebrations

KARACHI (AFP) — Thirteen people were killed in Karachi Monday, six of them massacred and dumped in a van, marring Pakistan's Independence Day festivities, while Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto vowed to end "terrorism."

As Ms. Bhutto spoke at a grand open-air ceremony outside the parliament in Islamabad, marking the 49th anniversary of the subcontinent's independence from Britain, police said they found six bullet-riddled bodies in an abandoned van, slumped over the seats, bound and blindfolded.

The victims, shot in the head and chest, had probably been kidnapped in various parts of the city, their bodies later dumped in the stolen vehicle in the central district.

The death of the naval band leader, identified as Ejaz Afzal, occurred during the parade after the Sindh Province Governor Kamal

Afzal and Chief Minister Abdullah Shah, had left the ceremony, witnesses and police said.

Officials said three of those found dead in the van had been identified. One of them, identified as Sooba Masih, had a note on his body alleging he was a police informer, police said.

In Orangi, a western neighbourhood, two bodies were discovered and three people, among them a woman, were shot dead by unidentified gunmen, amid sporadic firing incidents in the area.

The 13th victim, brother of a police officer slain a few months ago, was killed by gunmen in a central locality, police said.

On Aug. 3, 12 men were found dead and similarly bound in a minibus in a different part of the city.

Police blamed all of the killings on the Mohajir

Muslim Movement (MQM), Karachi's main opposition group, which broke off talks with the government late last month after four unproductive rounds.

But the MQM, which represents Urdu-speaking immigrants from India who settled here after the partition of the subcontinent in 1947, blames clashes that have left more than 1,200 dead this year on government discrimination against the immigrants.

Speaking in Islamabad, Ms. Bhutto said her government would continue its efforts to find a political solution to the Karachi conflict and resolved to "end the politics of terror and ethnicity."

"A group has taken up arms in the name of ethnic-

ity," she said, and claimed a "foreign hand" — an apparent reference to India — was exploiting the situation.

"It is a pity that after nearly 50 years of independence the politics of ethnicity still exists," she told the independence day gathering, which included military chiefs, ministers and high civil officials.

Ms. Bhutto said her government had allocated more than \$4 billion for a long-term development programme in Karachi.

The MQM is calling for fresh local elections in Sindh province, where Karachi is the capital, and the dropping of criminal charges against party leaders, including Altaf Hussain, the party head now living in London.

Sinn Fein Adams stirs row by IRA-still here remark

BELFAST (R) — Sinn Fein President Gerry Adams was at the centre of fresh controversy Monday for pointedly reminding Northern Ireland that the IRA guerrilla movement had not disbanded despite a year-long ceasefire.

Senior spokesman for Sinn Fein, which, like the IRA, seeks to end British rule of Northern Ireland, tried to play down Mt. Adams' remark at a huge Belfast rally on Sunday.

The party's vice-president, Pat Doherty, told BBC radio that there was no threat to the Irish Republican Army would resume its 25-year war on Britain despite deadlock in a fledgling Anglo-Irish peace plan.

He repeated Mr. Adams' accusation that Britain had brought the peace process to the brink by refusing to convene all-party talks until the IRA and its Protestant loyalist rivals disarm.

"It is not under the threat of a return to violence. This peace process is in a crisis because the British government is refusing to move to all-party talks."

The Roman Catholic prime minister of All Ireland, Cardinal Cahal Daly, said after a wave of weekend street clashes be-

tween Catholics and police that the deadlock was frustrating.

"We are in real danger of missing a historic opportunity to end conflict and produce a peaceful, reconciled and agreed Northern Ireland. If we miss it now it may not come again."

"I think there is frustration. I think there is impatience... there is concern that we might slide back again into violence," he told the BBC.

At least 30 people were hurt at the weekend when Catholics tried to prevent Protestants parading through their areas and youths firebombed a Protestant "orange" hall overnight.

British and Irish officials are working on proposals to break the deadlock which could include a commitment by the IRA and its loyalist foes, who fought to keep the province British, to disarm at some stage perhaps under international supervision.

David Ervine, leader of the Progressive Unionist Party which is close to UVF loyalist guerrillas, said it was vital the gunmen made a commitment to disarm to keep peace going.

TOKYO (AFP) — Japanese police on Monday brought yet another charge against Aum Supreme Truth guru Shoko Asahara, alleging that he was responsible for the abduction, confinement and death of a brother of an Aum follower.

A spokesman said police arrested Mr. Asahara along with six disciples in the case of Kiyoshi Kariya, a 68-year-old notary public clerk in Tokyo who was abducted in front of his office on February 28.

It was the fifth charge against Asahara, 40, who was first arrested on May 16 as the alleged mastermind behind the March 20 sarin nerve gas attack on the Tokyo subway.

Some 40 Aum followers have also been arrested and indicted for the attack, which killed 11 people and injured 5,500 others.

The near-blind guru has since been charged with the murder of a disciple, the cult's production and use of illegal drugs and an earlier sarin attack in June 1994 that killed seven and injured some 600 in the central Japanese city of Matsumoto.

Under the Japanese legal system, police "arrest" suspects for each alleged crime even if they are already under

Aum's guru Asahara charged with abduction

In the latest case, the guru is believed to have ordered his disciples to abduct Mr. Kariya in an attempt to find the latter's 62-year-old sister, Jiji Press and other reports said, quoting police sources.

The wealthy widow, who had by then donated 60 million yen (\$640,000) to Aum, was reportedly trying to defect from the cult.

After being abducted to a group led by Yoshihiro Inoue, the 25-year-old cult's "intelligence minister", Mr. Kariya was taken in a van to the Aum's main commune in Kamikushiki, a village at the foot of Mt. Fuji, Jiji said.

Mr. Kariya reportedly died the next day, on March 1, apparently of shock after receiving an injection of a truth drug from Aum's chief doctor Ikuo Hayashi, 48.

Mr. Inoue and Tomomasa Nakagawa, 32, are believed to have disposed of Mr. Kariya's corpse in a cult-invented microwave incinerator, Jiji said.

Despite wide-spread speculation that Aum had been involved in the abduction of a lawyer and his family six years earlier, police had been cautious about raiding the cult until Mr. Kariya's abduction, which occurred in broad daylight in the presence of witnesses.

A judge late Sunday

Chechen-Russian talks in crisis amid conflicting reports of accord

MOSCOW (APP) — Peace talks between Chechen rebels and Russian forces were on the verge of collapse Monday, amid conflicting reports that an accord had been reached on disarmament of separatist forces.

The reported agreement between the Chechen and Russian commanders came in a 30-minute meeting in the Chechen capital Grozny held as the peace talks hit a crisis, with each side accusing the other of sabotaging the process.

On Sunday, the Russian side gave the Chechens an ultimatum to begin disarming voluntarily, as already agreed to, or face the use of force.

On Sunday, the Russian side gave the Chechens an ultimatum to begin disarming voluntarily, as already agreed to, or face the use of force.

Interfax news agency reported that Russian General Anatoly Romanov had narrowed the ultimatum down to a deadline of 4:00 p.m. (1200 GMT) to sign a Russian plan on carrying out the disarmament agreement.

It was not clear whether the deadline was given before or after the reported agreement between Mr. Romanov and Chechen military commander Aslan Maskhadov.

ITAR-TASS said Mr. Romanov and Mr. Maskhadov agreed that four groups of representatives from both forces would visit different areas of Chechnya to put the

disarmament process into action.

The two sides have been locked in talks since mid-June.

A July 30 peace agreement provided for the exchange of prisoners, the disarmament of rebel Chechen forces and the beginning of a withdrawal of Russian troops, who entered the Caucasian republic Dec. 11 last year.

So far, none of the conditions have been fulfilled and the negotiations on fundamental issues, such as Chechnya's political status, have bogged down.

Even the ceasefire, also part of the agreement, has been repeatedly violated by both sides.

The reported breakthrough between Mr. Romanov and Mr. Maskhadov will be accompanied by the scattering of helicopters of 7,000 leaflets with a simplified text of the July 30 accord, ITAR-TASS said.

There will also be a call to mothers "to stop your sons if they keep shouting at Russian soldiers."

But given the difficulties the disarmament process has already run into, there remained grave doubts over whether Mr. Maskhadov's and Mr. Romanov's agreement would convince

Chechen fighters to give up the weapons they have fought with since last December.

In Moscow, President Boris Yeltsin chaired a meeting on the crisis attended by Premier Viktor Chernomyrdin and members of the Russian negotiating team.

Interfax said the meeting was also attended by Interior Minister Anatoly Kulikov, Nationalities Minister Vyacheslav Mikhailov and the head of the Russian administration in Chechnya, Nikolai Semyonov.

The meeting ended without any public statements, a Kremlin spokesman said.

On Sunday, the Russian side took a tough stand, accusing Chechen separatist President Dzhokhar Dudayev of violating the "letter and spirit" of the July 30 accord.

The crisis had worsened when Mr. Dudayev reportedly issued a decree ordering creation of a "regular army," which he said made his guerrilla forces exempt from the military accord that calls for disarmament of "illegal formations."

Mr. Mikhailov said that "if common sense does not prevail over these ambitions then, unfortunately, we will have to fulfill this accord by force," he warned.

He accused Chechen fighters and shooting at Russian troops more than 200 times since the accord was signed.

Ten soldiers had been killed and 37 wounded, he said.

Akhayd Idigov, part of the Chechen delegation, said Russian forces were continuing "artillery attacks, arrests and massacres," the news agency Interfax said.

Sunday, the Chechen delegation said it had uncovered a Russian bomb plot against Mt. Dudayev. The Russians denied involvement.

Mr. Kulikov said there was also still total disagreement on the exchange of prisoners, which should have taken place Aug. 7.

The Russians want 54 prisoners to be freed, while the Chechens have presented a list of seven Russian prisoners, asking in exchange for the liberation of 1,500 Chechens.

Russian forces stormed Chechnya in December to end an independence uprising led by Mr. Dudayev.

An estimated 15,000 to 30,000 people have been killed in the fighting, many of them civilians killed in the indiscriminate Russian bombing and shelling of Grozny and other towns and villages.

3 French officers jailed in beating of Moroccan-born man

PARIS (AP) — In a scandal that could ignite new ethnic tensions in France's second-largest city, three police officers were jailed Sunday in the brutal beating of a North African man.

The attack in Marseille comes at a time of simmering ethnic tensions across France. Reeling under high unemployment, many white French see immigrants as an economic threat, and authorities are probing North African connections to the July 25 Paris subway attack that killed seven people and injured more than 80 others.

A judge late Sunday

ough investigation after reviewing the results of a preliminary inquiry into the attack.

"What has happened upsets me," said Michel Sapin, police chief for the Marseille region, vowing to "severely punish these unacceptable acts." He said the inspector general of the national police

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Code requires consensus

THE ARAB LEAGUE is busy preparing itself for an important ministerial meeting next month to adopt the so-called "Code of Honour" that supposedly would regulate inter-Arab relations in the future. Also on the agenda of the meeting will be a review of the Arab League's Charter, the creation of an Arab peacekeeping force and the establishment of an Arab High Court of Justice. These and other related subjects should make the upcoming conference in Cairo, which will take place on the eve of the next U.N. General Assembly session in New York, a momentous event that promises to improve relations between the Arab capitals and put them on a sound footing.

Inter-Arab ties had suffered a great deal in the aftermath of the Gulf crisis and they continue to weigh heavily on relations, among countries and even peoples. To be sure, though, there are other factors that also affect Arab relations that date back to the era that preceded the Gulf conflict. No wonder the Arab League appears determined to put the Arab house in order, beginning with basics, like the touted code of honour and ending with the more difficult and complex issues.

The proposed code, however, remains a mystery as far as the Arab peoples are concerned. The Arab League should be the first to recognise that addressing the shortcomings of inter-Arab relations calls for more than official involvement. The Arab peoples everywhere should be also involved in the process of articulating and adopting the code. That is why we need to have broader access to the articles of this code so that our masses could have an opportunity to voice their opinions on them, individually and collectively. The next few weeks which precede the convening of the ministerial meeting can be used to solicit any ideas our intellectuals, researchers and individuals might have on formulating the document. The Arab mass media in particular should be invited to publish more information about the code in question and Arab professional associations are in turn called upon to express their views. After all Arab ties are not and should not be limited or confined to official contacts. Unless and until relations among the various Arab peoples are also addressed and put on the right course, no amount of proper ties on the official level would be sufficient to ensure a bright future.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

IT SEEMS that the United States is enthusiastic about the idea of escalating tension between Iraq and Jordan and would do anything to see such development in the aftermath of the defection to the Kingdom by some of the Iraqi president's family members, said Hussein Abu Rumman, a writer in Al Ra'i. Washington is trying to employ the latest development as an excuse for maintaining the sanctions on Iraq as a means of pressure on President Saddam Hussein and his regime, said the writer. But, said the writer, it is clear that the Iraqi regime considers Jordan as its sole outlet to the outside world and as such it cannot be concerned with straining its ties with the Kingdom. Furthermore, the Iraqi regime realises that Jordan can be means to be responsible for the Iraqi internal disputes, and that it had no choice but to grant the Iraqi defectors asylum, added the writer. However, he said, it is hoped that the Iraqi regime will benefit from this latest development and embark on a democratic course, political pluralism and other positive actions that can help to end the Iraqi people's sufferings.

AL DUSTOUR daily said Monday that certain elements, considered hostile to the Arab Nation, are trying to distort Jordan's image before the world through exploiting the defection of Iraqi army officers to the Kingdom. Recalling that Jordan's position was misinterpreted during the Gulf crisis, causing the country to be ostracised. The paper said that some hostile elements are trying once again to fish in shallow waters by claiming that Jordan is serving as a base for Iraqi opposition intent on overthrowing the Iraqi regime. The paper said these elements have forgotten that tens of thousands of Iraqis have been living in Jordan since the Gulf crisis and are treated here as guests in line with the Kingdom's custom of giving refuge to all brothers and sisters from any part of the Arab World. Hosting Hussein Kamel Hassan and his companions, it said, is in keeping with this tradition of acceding hospitality and refuge to all brothers and sisters fleeing their homeland and seeking protection and safety.

The View from Fourth Circle

Barbarians and Bosnia's frightening lessons

By Rami G. Khouri

THE CONTINUING warfare and human suffering in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Serbia and other parts of the former Yugoslavia demand better than they have received to date on two important levels: explanation of the behaviour of the Western powers, notably the United States and the major European states, and explanation of the behaviour of the Islamic World.

Bosnia today is a haunted land, consumed by ghosts that bring us face-to-face with chilling realities that are as macabre as anything we have experienced in recent human history. The predominantly Muslim Bosnians have suffered the most in this tormented and scarred place, but Serbs, Croats and international peace-keepers have also died and suffered. The latest round of fighting, ethnic cleansing and refugee flows emphasises the fact that Bosnia is the most vulnerable party, but not the only vulnerable party.

The common instinct in our region, Europe and even North America has been to wring one's hands and to wonder why the world has not done any better in protecting the Bosnians and bringing peace and stability to this disfigured patch of Earth. We hear about morality, about history, about averting or stopping vulgarity and brutality, about the unconscionable evils of ethnic cleansing, about appeasement, and about the United Nations and NATO fighter-bombers. We hear accusations that the West is compliant with Serbian aggression because the West does not want a Muslim state in its midst.

We hear many such pleas, explanations and excuses, but they all seem unsatisfactory, because they all miss the point, they all fear to accept the truth — not the truth about Bosnia and Croatia and Serbia and places far away, but the truth about our own societies and values and priorities, in the Arab and Islamic World, and in Europe and the United States. This conflict is not about avoiding repeating the horrors of the past; it has nothing to do with the past. It is a conflict about the present and the values of the present; and it is also about the future and the future shape of national interests and interventions in our world. That is why it is so terrible, and why our collective human response to it is so frightening to us, to the point that we have been numbed into almost meaningless blather when we speak of the need to bring peace and justice to that disfigured and ravaged land, and to our disfigured and ravaged psyches.

There is nothing historically new or politically unusual about the brutality in Bosnia and its violent neighbourhood. Such violence and racism have been practised by otherwise decent people in the United States, the Middle East, Europe, South America, Africa and Asia. What is new today is that we know about this passion and this slaughter at first-hand, for we see it on our televisions

several times a day. Standing at that historical novel intersection between speedy global communication and basic human compassion, our compassion bravely tries to rise to the occasion and assert itself. But it cannot match that other, deadly emotion that also defines us as human beings: selfish, materialistic indifference.

Everybody is angry about Bosnia, everybody blames someone else, everybody calls for everybody else to rise to higher level of morality, assistance, protection, something, anything, any gesture or symbol or pathetic little sign that makes us feel that we are trying to do something that we care, that the compassion within us has not died. But still it does not work. Our appeals are self-satisfying, but ineffective. The killing and ethnic cleansing go on, as does mass global bewilderment, and predictable appeals to do something, anything.

The agony of Bosnia is the agony of all of us as individuals and as societies and nations. The agony is that we understand now that we do not really care about Bosnia or Croatia or Serbia, beyond making the self-satisfying gestures that make us believe we care. Our crime as human beings in a single earthly family is not that we have done little or nothing to help the people of the former Yugoslavia; our crime is that we have written off these sad cultures that had the misfortune to be the world's first televised political morality freak show in the post-cold war world of Pax Americana — a sick and brutal show complete with ethnic cleansing, prisoner camps, mass rapes and fleeing refugees mowed down by enemy planes.

The new rules of the world are harsh, unrelenting and deeply lacking in compassion. The new rules have one primary measure of value: economic and material utility. If you are a big country or even a big power, you make policy today on the basis of how smaller countries can serve your material and economic interests. If you are a small country, you look for bigger powers to link with.

Bosnia and its neighbours are unlucky to be among the first lands to bear the weight of the harsh new rules, and thus to teach us about those rules and about ourselves. It is hard to admit that the Bosnian tragedy can go on for nearly four years; it is harder to accept that the indifference of the world, our indifference, is equally strong.

The first lesson of Bosnia is not about vulnerability or racism or religion or xenophobia or appeasement; it is about something far more frightening: it is about being unimportant and inconsequential, and therefore disposable. This is a terrifying realisation that hounds us as both potential practitioners and victims: we can spend years watching other countries and cultures sink into a terrible spiral of killing and desperation and do very little of

consequence about it, and we might also imagine ourselves one day becoming weak, vulnerable and peripheral, and thus subject to a cruel Bosnian fate while others watch and do little of consequence. Either way, we suffer and we lose.

Those in the West and the Islamic World who control armies and much advanced weaponry seem as perplexed about what to do in Bosnia as the average citizen. What is the meaning of their hesitation and caution, other than that they do not find the potential gains from a serious military intervention in Bosnia and environs sufficiently significant to warrant the risks of intervention? Domestic politics or national interest often are cited as reasons for caution and temperate policy. Is this not the same as saying that Bosnia and environs are not important enough to do anything more than the current shopping list of intervention, interdiction, protection, prevention and confusion?

If Islamic and other states were really concerned enough about the suffering of Bosnians, could they not have sent more military aid or even troops? If the West were really keen to bring peace to that area, could it not have acted with more forcefulness two and three years ago, when the problem was in its infancy? In both cases, the answer is, of course, yes. Why did nobody deems Bosnia important or useful enough to go to war for. This is a cruel reality that is confirmed by our history from the facts before us.

Bosnia and its neighbourhood will probably live through this and history will go on, but history will be conducted henceforth according to the new rules of national political expedience and economic servitude. Countries that serve others — as markets, or geographic buffers, or sources of raw material or cheap labour, or dumping grounds for hazardous wastes, or purveyors of drugs, sex and weaponry, or exotic vacation spots, or any of many other purposes — countries that perform these functions will be courted, protected and nurtured. Countries that fail this test will be allowed to go their own way and suffer their own regional fate, at the hands of their own people and neighbours.

Bosnia has, or should have, taught us about these new rules, but most people around the world prefer not to see the new realities of our world. We prefer to live in the past, to see Bosnia and to speak of appeasement and laws of civilised societies, and yet nobody in the West or the Islamic realm really cares enough to offer more than words and humanitarian material aid. This is good and decent of the world, but it is not enough to affirm that the laws of civilised societies triumph over the narrow fears and the large swords of the barbarians — both the barbarians on the battlefield, and the barbarians in the global audience.

Who's right and who's wrong? Depends on whose bus you're on with Yugoslavia

The renewal of Croat-Serb fighting has revived the propaganda war that last raged in 1991

powered by the Yugoslav-backed Serb army in that war, reporters were shown only houses said to have been destroyed by Croat fighters. Rebel Serb women and children encountered along the way predictably sang the praises of the Yugoslav force 'defending them.'

Then as now, independent reports of shelling of innocent civilians and other atrocities were denied, and permits to travel alone refused.

Four years later, the Croatian government likewise designed a tour that portrays it most favourably. The bus moves past Plaski's Serbian Orthodox church, which the guide says had been left standing by Croatian troops only to be left in disrepair by the Serbs.

"Judging from appearances, it would appear the Serbs never used it," she sniffs, and the implication is clear — unlike Croats, God-fearing Catholics, the enemy never went to church.

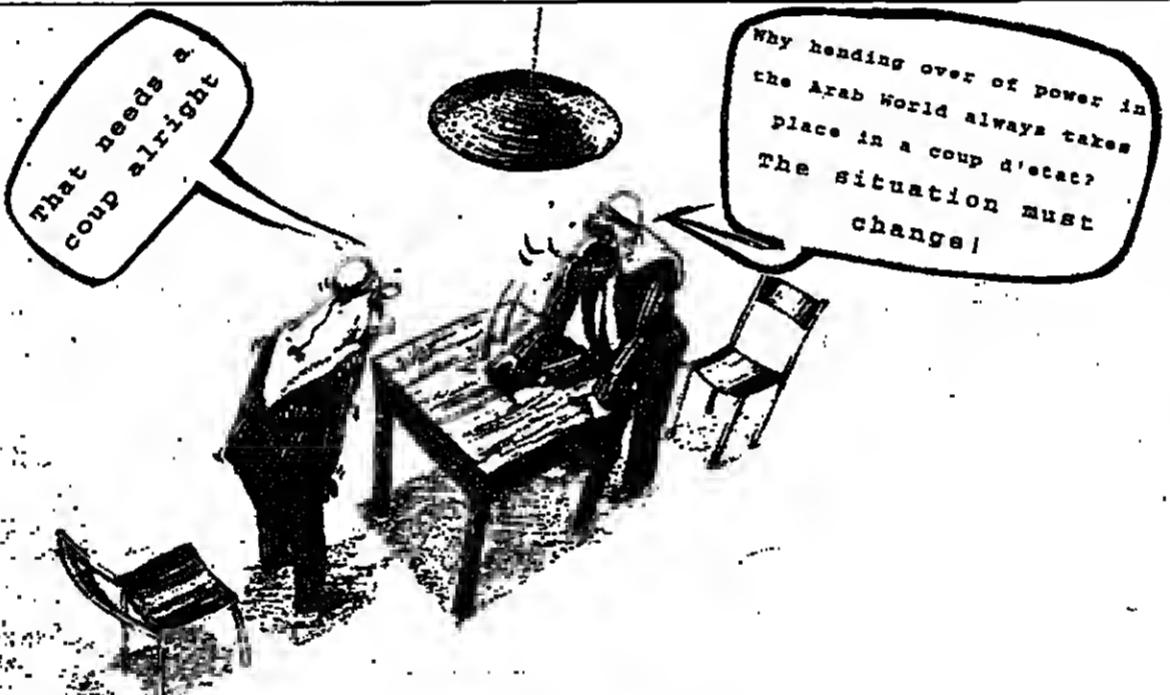
The bus picks up speed leaving Plaski as the road improves, blurring the sight of houses burned to their foundations and still smoking. They appear to have been deliberately torched, days after the end of any fighting and the Serb exodus from the region.

Saborsko is levelled, and some of the destruction was clearly wrought after the fighting ended four years ago. The guide repeats her message for those who haven't grasped it: "You can see that everything here was destroyed, in comparison to the Serb villages, which are generally intact."

On the way back the bus stops at Slunj, 80 kilometres southwest of Zagreb. The bus empties as the reporters stretch their legs. Some government troops, unshaven reserves moved in after elite soldiers have left, swing bottles of brandy and home-brewed Rakija, thrusting them at some of the visitors.

An army captain moves up to a particularly wild group singing on the street corner. Putting a fatherly arm around a burly trooper's shoulder he says softly: "Easy does it my friend. Remember, we have to show the world that we're not the barbarians."

But as archaeologists recently learned, the seafloor off Abu Dhabi's coast began in the port's deeper perimeter before Abu Dhabi's son triggered an archeological boom in human and trade activity in the mid-1970s. This has been a shopping off point for an iron



Put India and Pakistan on the Oslo track to peace

By Ahmad Rashid and Ramesh Thakur

LAHORE, Pakistan — Relations between Pakistan and India are at their worst and most dangerous since 1970. Yet Pakistanis and northern Indians are essentially the same people with a shared civilisation and common food, music, culture, speech and way of life.

France and Germany, historic enemies, are now at peace and partners in prosperity. The price paid before their reconciliation was two world wars.

Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation, 20th century enemies of equally bitter proportions, are engaged in a peace process that has already recorded substantial achievements.

The key was a search for peace along the so-called Oslo track.

Pakistan and India have a rivalry as intense and long as the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. This rivalry led to wars in 1947-1948, 1965 and 1971. If there is a future conflict, it could escalate into mutually ruinous nuclear catastrophe.

There are thus compelling reasons for the two countries to engage in a substantial search for peace. The rest of the world has a major stake in the outcome.

Almost five decades of conflict have left Pakistan and India in a lose equation. Pakistan cannot wrest Kashmir from India by force. The majority of Kashmiris care little for Indian control.

The costs to India are huge and continuing. The occupation of Kashmir has damaged India's democracy and undermined its federalism. The Oslo track has three stages.

The first involves discussions among private individuals who have never had

any position in government. This enables both states to deny any knowledge of the dialogue, if necessary. The individuals concerned must nevertheless have the complete trust of their governments in communicating official positions without distortion and maintaining total confidentiality. They must be prepared to devote months to the task.

Second, once both governments have established trust in each other's good faith in negotiations through months of such diplomacy, the senior officials will be involved directly in making the tough decisions on the balance of advantages in trading one concession for another.

Finally, once officials in consultations with home governments have identified the difficult choices that need to be made in the peace agreement package, the two prime ministers can become involved directly in making the tough decisions on the balance of advantages in trading one concession for another.

This is, of course, an elite model for settling conflicts. There is a common tendency to demonise elites and romanticise "ordinary people." However, the negotiating room for democratic governments is circumscribed by popular passions. The initial explorations for peace between Pakistan and India must therefore occur in the form of secret talks.

Another feature of the Oslo track that might apply to a Pakistan-India dialogue is speed. The negotiations should not take more than a year to reach agreement on the main components of a deal, even though finalising

and implementing the package would likely take longer.

The leaders of both countries will then have to use their power and prestige to mobilise popular support behind the necessary mutual compromises in any such settlement. They would need to mount a skillful public relations campaign. Otherwise the accord will fall victim to charges of having sold out the national interest.

If Pakistan and India are ever to gain international standards of good life for their people, they must find a solution to Kashmir instead of holding their national security hostage for the sake of the mountain territory. A resolution of that problem followed by greater attention to economic and social development would bring both countries greater and more genuine respect in the world community.

Once the dispute is resolved, Pakistan and India could turn from tension and hostility to a new chapter of cooperation and good neighbourly relations. No other nation is as important to Pakistan as India, and vice versa. Their destinies are tied for better or worse. It will require political choices based on courage, conviction and vision to make sure it is better, not worse.

Mr. Rashid is a journalist based in Lahore. Mr. Thakur, who was born in India, is head of the Peace Research Centre at the Australian National University in Canberra. They contributed above comment to the International Herald Tribune.

Fea

Journalist Daphne Castro and several members of the Palace of the Revolution and Havana's corralled Donald Robert Vesco, a Joanne Chesiman in conjunction with Richard Gooding of Fox Television.

just before I left for Mexico City and a prominent New York businessman, who holdings happen to be gambling. "When Fidel," he whispered spiritedly, "will we have love to open a Cuban in Havana — the minute allowed in Cuba course, need me to course the message that the Cuban business world is based on the beatings on the beach signal to send. According to Roberto Telleria, deputy minister of investment and planning, some 100 American businessmen came to the past year and a half expressed interest in testing in Cuba. He naming names, but was no reason to em

Right now, the United States is virtually the only country missing the trillions of dollars that have not yet been refugees out of American nations, but is threatened by Cuban ideological forces when it was proposed to Soviet money, and a taking out for the economic well-being of Cuba's trade with Cuba. Such Cuban long affection to young the U.S. apparently pursuing mass here word is making the Cuban's largest foreign investment in Cuba's trade debt. Argentina has half a billion. And Brazil signed the most recent money deal to take over cigarette production country whose consumption of cigarettes a year — by unlikely to ever American rule "no" law. But even investments are not enough to turn the Cuban's drawing room.

In the summer sun and smoke of Cuban's cafes, the talk is dollars. In Cuba, the dollar is mighty. Ordinary Cubans and most senior government officials talk of the and of openness — comes as across as beggars in this country — real physical for foreign investors, among the officials, is much publicised in the U.S. return to power to even the prestigious Avenues area of Havana with its stately mansions and manicured gardens shows up after here drivers, waiters, and that puts you in contact with tourists and their money. You pick up the phone, local call. The person other end says "maybe 45 minutes, and get a bill for \$25. And comes together when

By Michael George Reuter

A BUDHABIL

Thousands of foreign tourists, lured by Abu Dhabi's oil wealth, are flocking to the emirate's beaches and shopping centers. The city's shopping centers are packed with tourists and their money. You pick up the phone, local call. The person on the other end says "maybe 45 minutes, and get a bill for \$25. And comes together when

Features

JORDAN TIMES, TUESDAY, AUGUST 15, 1995 7

Imagine ourselves and peripheral, and others watch and suffer and we lose. World who control seem as perplexed as citizen. What is on, other than that in a serious military or domestic significant cause or saying that Bosnia to do anything of intervention, concerned enough they not have seen. West were really ears ago, when the answer is, of decisively to help important or useful realty that is draw no other before us. bably live through national political parties, or sources of spring grounds for sex and weapons, any other purposes will be counted, all this test will be their own regional and neighbours, about these new prefer not to see live in the past, and laws of the West, or the more than words good and decent of that the laws of our fears and the barbarians on global audience.

By Daphne Barak and Richard Gooding

Just before I left for Cuba, on a too-long flight by way of Mexico City and Cancun, a prominent New York businessman, whose vast holdings happen to include gambling casinos, pulled me aside. "When you see Fidel," he whispered conspiratorily, "tell him I'd love to open a casino in Havana — the minute we're allowed in."

No one in Cuba, of course, needs me to pass the message that the American business world is waiting on the beachhead, ready for the signal, any signal, to land. According to Roberto Talarid, Cuba's deputy minister of foreign investment and cooperation, some 200 American businessmen came here in the past year, and, ironically, expressed interest in investing in Cuba. He wasn't naming names, but there was no reason to doubt him.

Right now, the United States is virtually the only country missing the boat, baulking dollars into Cuba, not refugees out. Latin American nations, no longer threatened by Cuba as an ideological force, as when it was propped up by Soviet money and oil, are looking out for their own economic well-being and scrambling to build up their trade with Cuba. Mexico, which earned Castro's undying affection by never joining the U.S. embargo, is currently pursuing investments here worth \$2 billion, making it the island's largest foreign investor. Cuba's trade debt with Argentina has ballooned to \$1.3 billion. And Brazil has signed the most recent big-money deal, to take over cigarette production in a country whose residents consume 12 billion cigarettes a year — a country unlikely to ever pass an American-style "no smoking" law. But even these investments are not nearly enough to turn the tide for Cuba's ailing economy.

In the summer sweater and smoky haze of Havana's cafés, the talk is all of dollars. In Cuba, the U.S. dollar is almighty. Both ordinary Cubans and the most senior government officials talk of the dollar and of "openness" — and it comes across as rank begging in this country of machismo. The bungler — real physical hunger among the people, hunger for foreign investment among the officials — is pervasive. It has led to the much-publicised (in the U.S.) return of prostitutes to even the prestigious Fifth Avenue area of Havana, with its stately embassies and manicured gardens. It shows up in the jobs most sought after here — taxi drivers, chauffeurs, translators, waiters; anything that puts you in contact with tourists and their wallets. It surfaces every time you pick up the phone for a local call: "The person at the other end says 'momento,'" puts you on hold for maybe 45 minutes, and you get a bill for \$25. And it all comes together whenever

you take a government official to lunch. Just sit across from a man who earns \$3 a month — paid in pesos, not dollars — and watch him order six or seven courses, each one the most expensive on the menu (lobster cocktail at \$30), washing it all down with the rarest wine from the cellar, and the point is made: In his case, he is not hungry for the food so much as for the cash (credit cards are useless baggage here) you can fork over to Cuban hands. An ugly American capitalist can go broke talking to Cuban officials about foreign investment.

"I don't understand why foreigners don't invest more in Cuba," Talarid tells me in his office, in a building threatening to collapse at any moment. The curtains are torn, the air conditioning drips even more humidity into the sated air (it doesn't work at all in the rest of the building), and the elevator is stuck on the ground floor. For two repetitive hours, the deputy foreign minister went on, incredulous about "What's wrong?" Cuba, he insisted, "is one of the most stable countries in the world — really. You invest money today, and there is no military or financial downside that is predictable..."

One who did invest — although apparently out in the traditional sense — was fugitive American financier and fraud artist Robert Vesco. For 15 years, he was an honored citizen of Havana, a personal friend of Castro's, and suddenly on May 31 he was arrested at his mansion and thrown into the dreaded Santa Maria prison. It was major news in the States and around the world, but without access to CNN or any American United media, not a word of it reached here; not one appeared in the Cuban national newspaper. In the American press, the story was spun on whether Castro was throwing bone to President Clinton. Castro's spin was this: "He was a spy." I beg your pardon? "Yes. When he came to Cuba he had a very positive attitude towards the Revolution. But we finally found out that he had changed his ways..." Translation: Vesco was no longer willing, or able, to line the pockets of his hosts.

For their part, top Cuban officials argue that it is increasingly the U.S., not Cuba, that is isolated by the embargo. And they go out of their way to compliment Mr. Clinton. Castro is no exception. In one breath, he is downright generous, even gallant, towards Mr. Clinton; in the next, however, he worries that "it's not really healthy for Clinton that I give him too many compliments. It could hurt him in the next elections." Castro even extends a nearly warm hand towards the Republicans, mentioning Bob Dole and Newt Gingrich in particular; the Republicans may be traditionally more antagonistic to Cuba, but no one here has forgotten that it was Richard Nixon, not a liberal Democrat, who first went to China.

"It's not really my fault that I'm still alive," Castro says with a big smile. "It's not really my fault that they didn't manage to kill me." I ask without needing to: "Who?" "The CIA." But Castro, despite rumours of a throat ailment and a mysterious hospitalisation, is far healthier than his revolution. Even the concedes these days that he is now a "realist" about capi-

talism; he has qualms about some of the economic reforms his government has instituted, but not so many that he wouldn't sign off on them; he knows the inevitable end of the U.S. embargo will prove to be a massive headache for Cuba, but he's willing to "gamble" that all he's created won't be swept away in a tidal wave of corruption, a return to the wide-open Havana of old.

Carlos Fernandez Deocasio, in charge of North American affairs in the foreign ministry and one of the most promising young leaders here tells me: "There is a new generation that is growing here that maybe does recognise the mistakes of the past."

One of the few leaders who bucks that trend is Cuba's de-facto first lady, Wilma Aspin Castro, wife of Raoul Castro, the defence minister and a possible successor to his brother (despite persistent rumours of a fondness for drink). Immaculately dressed and made up, her hair in a conservative bun, this sullenly beautiful woman grants a rare interview only after days of persistent requests.

When I suggest that it is Cuba that is on the wrong horse with the Soviet Union, she gets far more defensive than her male colleagues at the Palace of the Revolution. I tell her: Look how difficult it is for the Cuban people; it's very hard to be ideologically pure when you don't have relatives in Miami or Spain to send you dollars, when you don't have food in your stomach. She looks at me with amazement. "Who said that life should be easy? I don't understand what you're talking about. Do you think that living like you live in New York is easy?" At that, she recalled a visit to New York City when she was 24 (1965-66) and on her way to study at Massachusetts Institute (MIT). "I went into the subway at night and I was shivering with fear. I was trembling. Here in Cuba you can go in the street without any fear." I tell her, yes, of course, with all these thousands of policemen. Wilma doesn't like that, either. She certainly doesn't like to hear that I

interviewers on Havana's Fifth Avenue. She is full of fire now. "Once I got so angry about it that I took police and we actually stopped the pimps. (In English, she asked, "How do you say it, 'pimps'?) We stopped the pimps on this avenue and we put them in jail. And I was in charge of it. I was there with the police. But, you know, the girls, they're not really hookers. They're just girls who want clothes for themselves and food for their babies."

The next day, we again stopped to chat with a "not really a hooker," as Wilma would have it. Before we were suddenly surrounded by eight police cars for conducting an unauthorised street interview — still a no-no here — this young lady was just as adamant as her first lady. "It's very nice of Mrs. Castro, all dressed in Christian Dior, to tell me what to do. And it's nice of her that she can talk. But I have to make a living and feed my baby, and I don't have a Christian Dior suit."

Castro does not have his own first lady, and while he concedes he has fathered a number of children (but "not as many as people want to think"), none of them are in the line of succession. It is one of Castro's "adopted" sons, Robert Robieno, who most definitely is. Robieno, 39, is short (Castro calls him "Robert Tico"). As foreign minister, he is the most powerful man in Cuba after Fidel and Raoul. When I phoned the ministry, I was told Robieno was out of town. But hours later I found myself standing next to the out-of-town guy at a garden party at the Canadian Embassy (Canada is Cuba's closest ally now). Fidel regularly appears at celebrations of the Canadian and Mexican national holidays, no others; and he has even taken to dropping by the embassy, uninvited, for coffee with the Canadian ambassador. The next day, Robieno and I met in his office, which is oddly teeming with peacocks and parrots. Fidel's "wonder boy" arrives on his bicycle (a health-food fanatic, he says he rides four kilometres a day and walks another four), very aware

of his charm and glistening with sweat. Tweaking his reputation for never wearing socks or a tie, he presents himself to the world this day in a jumpsuit and a black shirt — with a white tie painted onto it. Still no socks, just sandals.

"The revolution was good in its time," Robieno says, tellingly using the past tense. "Now there are new times. It's not really a question of gambling on the wrong horse, but a question of change. The world is changing and we have to change. We did make a few mistakes; maybe we were wrong. But who doesn't make mistakes?" When I ask Robieno about making approaches to Mr. Clinton, the parrot gets hysterical, making so much racket I can't concentrate. "That's how he responds to Bill Clinton. And if you ask him about the blockade, he says, 'No. No. No.' We tried it, and it was true.

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not a simple "Si"), but U.S. State Department officials put out word they viewed the meeting as a positive signal. Then there was Vesco's arrest, and in meetings with senior officials there were hints that another of the 70 or so American fugitives here, Joanne Chesimard, the Black Panther convicted of the 1973 killing of a New Jersey state trooper, might also be in jeopardy, a pawn to the plot of cooperation. (I tracked down Chesimard, living in Havana as Assata Shakur and writing a second book.

Wearing a brightly-coloured dress, she looked healthy and much younger than her 48 years. We sat in the Floridita restaurant, the old Havana haunt made famous by Ernest Hemingway, and as violin played behind us she started crying about how she "misses" America and New York City. But, she insisted, "the Cubans know I never killed anyone. I feel very secure here." Then she paused and added: "I don't know what say... I hope Fidel is not going to trade me. I know people are linking me with Vesco, but we have nothing in common. I don't think very highly of what he did..." For their part, Robieno and other senior officials, and even Castro himself, wanted no part of questions about Chesimard, silence that seemed to speak for itself.

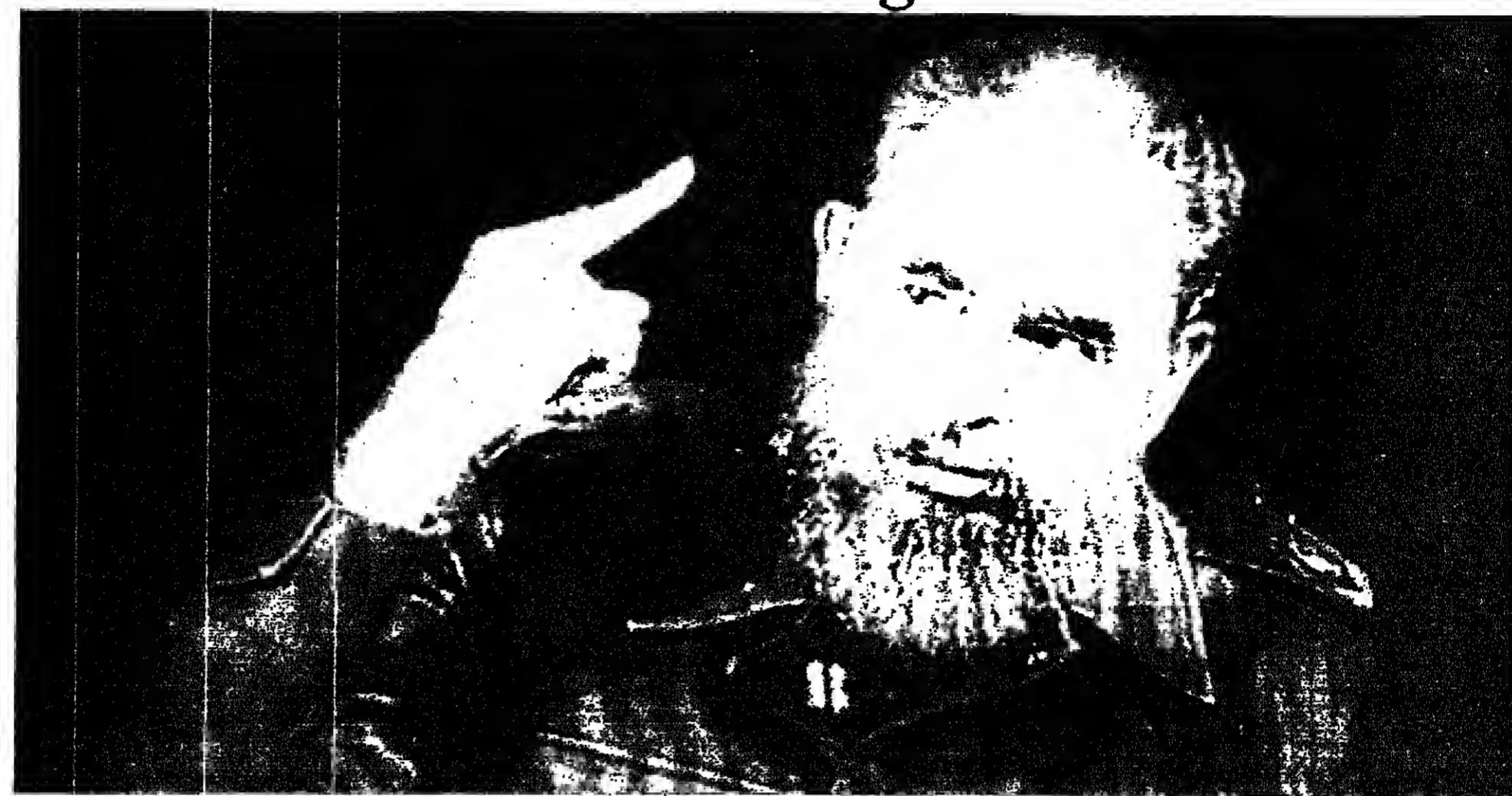
The Cuban Revolution has not lost its occasional bite here. I met a German tourist who for want of the proper visa ended up in jail, stripped of his clothes, humiliated, and only allowed out of the country after his ambassador interceded. Even then, he was forced to sign a statement of guilt and to pay \$110 for "room and breakfast" — a cell, and milk and sugar. Members of my TV film crew were so edgy about secret police that when a maid in their hotel walked in on them after midnight to offer a Leona Helmsley-style courtesy of a bedsheet mint, they imagined the worst and blocked her entry. And Donald Nixon, the nephew of Richard who was staying with Vesco when the soldiers stormed in, was still terrorised when I

caught up to him at the Cancun airport. "The mansion was surrounded by soldiers in green uniforms," he recalled. "Vesco told me, 'Go up to your room, something looks very uneasy.' Suddenly, a colonel knocked on my door and said, 'You have to come down right now.' I went down and managed to see Vesco, the strongest guy in Cuba, held by the soldiers outside. He couldn't even say goodbye." Nixon couldn't contain his relief, exclaiming over and over how lucky he was to have gotten out alive.

(A few weeks after my return, the New York Times carried news of the latest warming sign: Negotiations to exempt American news organisations from the embargo and to allow them to set up bureaus in Cuba for the first time since 1969.) Ordinary Cubans still won't hazard anything but servile flattery of Castro to strangers. But, like Robieno, they have taken to speaking of the Revolution in the past tense. When Castro is gone, what will be left?

"Believe me," says Castro, "the life of Cuba is not going to stop for one second, even a bit of a second." I look at him and take a deep breath. Maybe it's time for a new revolution, I suggest. Castro is touching his beard and looking at me intently, to the point of embarrassment. "No, a real revolution, with significance to it and ideology, should happen maybe every 300 years." Maybe it's time you should rest, I say, with much sympathy as I can muster. "The CLA would probably agree with that," he replies. "Maybe also the Mossad." Finally, I have to ask: Who will take over when you're gone? "This is a question you should ask the CIA," he says, again resorting to his favorite bogeyman. "They spend so much time on how 'I'm going to end up...' Fidel looks more bemused than disturbed by the prospect; it's clear he's thought about it a lot, analysed it from every angle. Not ready for his own funeral, he's resigned to the no-revolutionary future.

The revolution that has lost its glamour



FIDEL CASTRO: "Not ready for his own future...but

resigned to the non-revolutionary future (AFP photo)

would penalise foreign firms that do business in both Cuba and the U.S. And hardline Cuban exile leader Jorge Mas Canosa in Miami has sent off tough letters to Latin American and European leaders, urging them to hold off investing in Cuba — at least while Castro remains in power.

Is Washington simply waiting for Castro to die? His passing would certainly make the lifting of the embargo politically easier. But a death in Havana may not come in good time for Washington; Castro may have to give up his cigars, but he appears more than vigorous. More importantly, the embargo limits America's input on the succession process, clearly underway now. Both the New York Times and the Wall Street Journal, coming at it from different viewpoints, have urged an end to the ban and the application of the carrot, not the stick, to nudge Cuba towards freedom.

For their part, top Cuban officials argue that it is increasingly the U.S., not Cuba, that is isolated by the embargo. And they go out of their way to compliment Mr. Clinton. Castro is no exception. In one breath, he is downright generous, even gallant, towards Mr. Clinton; in the next, however, he worries that "it's not really healthy for Clinton that I give him too many compliments. It could hurt him in the next elections." Castro even extends a nearly warm hand towards the Republicans, mentioning Bob Dole and Newt Gingrich in particular; the Republicans may be traditionally more antagonistic to Cuba, but no one here has forgotten that it was Richard Nixon, not a liberal Democrat, who first went to China.

"It's not really my fault that I'm still alive," Castro says with a big smile. "It's not really my fault that they didn't manage to kill me." I ask without needing to: "Who?" "The CIA." But Castro, despite rumours of a throat ailment and a mysterious hospitalisation, is far healthier than his revolution. Even the concedes these days that he is now a "realist" about capi-

talism; he has qualms about some of the economic reforms his government has instituted, but not so many that he wouldn't sign off on them; he knows the inevitable end of the U.S. embargo will prove to be a massive headache for Cuba, but he's willing to "gamble" that all he's created won't be swept away in a tidal wave of corruption, a return to the wide-open Havana of old.

Carlos Fernandez Deocasio, in charge of North American affairs in the foreign ministry and one of the most promising young leaders here tells me: "There is a new generation that is growing here that maybe does recognise the mistakes of the past."

The next day, we again stopped to chat with a "not really a hooker," as Wilma would have it. Before we were suddenly surrounded by eight police cars for conducting an unauthorised street interview — still a no-no here — this young lady was just as adamant as her first lady. "It's very nice of Mrs. Castro, all dressed in Christian Dior, to tell me what to do. And it's nice of her that she can talk. But I have to make a living and feed my baby, and I don't have a Christian Dior suit."

Castro does not have his own first lady, and while he concedes he has fathered a number of children (but "not as many as people want to think"), none of them are in the line of succession. It is one of Castro's "adopted" sons, Robert Robieno, who most definitely is. Robieno, 39, is short (Castro calls him "Robert Tico"). As foreign minister, he is the most powerful man in Cuba after Fidel and Raoul. When I phoned the ministry, I was told Robieno was out of town. But hours later I found myself standing next to the out-of-town guy at a garden party at the Canadian Embassy (Canada is Cuba's closest ally now). Fidel regularly appears at celebrations of the Canadian and Mexican national holidays, no others; and he has even taken to dropping by the embassy, uninvited, for coffee with the Canadian ambassador. The next day, Robieno and I met in his office, which is oddly teeming with peacocks and parrots. Fidel's "wonder boy" arrives on his bicycle (a health-food fanatic, he says he rides four kilometres a day and walks another four), very aware

of his charm and glistening with sweat. Tweaking his reputation for never wearing socks or a tie, he presents himself to the world this day in a jumpsuit and a black shirt — with a white tie painted onto it. Still no socks, just sandals.

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Late stone age desert site found by birdwatcher

By Michael George
Reuter

A B U D H A B I — Thousands of foreigners land at Abu Dhabi's airport every day, lured by a city of petrodollars, gleaming skyscrapers and shiny luxury cars. But as archaeologists recently learned, the search for riches began in the airport's desert perimeter long before Abu Dhabi's oil boom triggered an explosion in human and freight traffic in the mid-1970s. "This has been a stopping-off point for 7,000 years. What an irony that

the airport is located here," said British archaeologist Jakub Czastika, standing in the sand beside excavated remains dating back thousands of years. The site would probably have been destroyed by bulldozers had it not been for a birdwatcher who accidentally stumbled on a scattering of fine late stone age flint tools, dating from about 5000 to 4500 B.C. and prehistoric pottery. "And now we know for sure that inland inhabitants travelled this way. From the stone age point of view this is a major find."

Archaeologists have discovered late stone age sites on the islands of Merawah, Ghagha and Al Fzaiyah, but uncovering the airport artefacts marked the first time one was confirmed on the Abu Dhabi coastline. They turned up several

important artefacts including fine red poishers dating from between 2700 and 2200 B.C., apparently showing that the early inhabitants imported and exported their goods along extensive trade routes. "We divided up the whole area and then we went back and sieved it. The materials shed light on a crossroads of peoples and trade routes," said Mr. Czastika. "Our preliminary findings suggest the site was a trade point in the copper trade from the inland all the way to Mesopotamia (modern Iraq). They exchanged their goods for local dried fish and an assortment of prized items including wood and pottery from Persia and Mesopotamian jewelry."

Mr. Czastika and his team now know that the ancient traders often stopped near the airport site on their way to the coast, some five kms away, to load up on the most precious commodity — water.

That became evident when excavators began removing layers of sand from what turned out to be wells from the late Islamic period. "We believe these wells have been rebuilt over thousands of years," said Mr. Czastika as an archaeologist measured the stones of one of the wells, a

circular structure 3.5 metres in diameter. The precise age of the wells is unknown because no tools or cooking utensils were found in them. Archaeologists suspect there were ancient settlements nearby, but the mystery may never be unravelled. "The evidence has been lost," said Mr. Czastika, looking at three bulldozers in the distance being used in an airport expansion project. "The evidence of the settlements has probably been buried under landfill operations," he said.

High-level Iraqi deflection sparks oil market bearishness

LONDON (R) — Oil prices lost ground Monday amid concerns that the defection of Iraq's military mastermind might help speed the return to world markets of Iraqi crude oil for the first time since it was banned more than five years ago.

"News from Iraq will tend to be bearish because the recent status quo is that sanctions will stay," said an oil trader in London. "Any news which puts that status quo in doubt, raising the possibility of full Iraqi cooperation with the U.N. or even of Saddam being overthrown, will hit the oil price."

But analysts said it was not yet clear exactly what impact the defection to Jordan of the head of Iraq's military industrialisation programme might have for the timing of the end of the United Nations oil embargo imposed after Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

London September futures for world benchmark North Sea Brent blend slipped 20 cents to \$16.05 a barrel after Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tareq Aziz announced that Iraq would reveal military secrets it had been keeping from the U.N. commission overseeing elimination of Baghdad's military programme.

Under Gulf war ceasefire terms the ban on Iraqi oil exports can only be lifted when Baghdad meets U.N. weapons demands.

The Aziz announcement appeared to be a pre-emptive move following the defection of Lieutenant-General Hussein Kamel Hassan, a son-in-law of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

Mr. Hussein Kamel Saturday called for the overthrow of the Iraqi leader. As holder of Iraq's military secrets he was central to negotiations with the United Nations. But Western diplomats in the region are not yet prepared to predict the demise of the Iraqi president.

Kleinwort Benson oil analyst Mehdi Varzi said there were two ways of looking at the latest Iraqi developments.

"In one sense the defections have played into the

hands of the U.S. which may use them as a means of prolonging sanctions," said Mr. Varzi. "America could even go further now and say openly what is said in the background: That this proves Saddam Hussein cannot be trusted and sanctions must remain until he's removed."

On the other hand, Mr. Hussein Kamel's defection may press President Saddam into revealing the military secrets the U.N. insists on.

"The defections might lead to a fuller revelation of Iraq's military past and might be sufficient in the next few months to persuade the Russians and the French to advance a motion calling for the lifting of sanctions," Mr. Varzi said.

Renewed Iraqi oil exports would have to compete in a well-supplied market where fast-growing volumes from producers outside of OPEC are easily matching extra world demand.

"Quite frankly the oil market has so much potential supply on the horizon that I don't think Iraqi oil is needed until at the earliest 1997 if not later...if it were to come earlier it would cause an almighty crisis," said Mr. Varzi.

Tokyo money brokers haggle over bids during Monday afternoon dollar trade in Tokyo. The dollar rose to a five-month high of 94.45 yen in morning trade, with Tokyo dealers saying they are sceptical whether the dollar can soon

manage to climb into the 95 to 100 yen territory that the Japanese monetary authorities may be aiming for to help the economy recover (Reuters photo)

already struggling to provide inflation-beating subsidies on bank deposits and treasury bonds.

"The central financial situation is still severe," Mr. Liu said, adding that problems of lax tax collection, growing tax, rebates and mounting commercial tax arrears required urgent resolution in the second half of the year.

"Fiscal budgets must be fully observed and expenditure must be brought under control," he said, stressing that no new off-budget spending would be sanctioned except for disaster relief.

Off-budget government expenditure is enormous, especially in terms of state bank loans to the loss-making state sector.

China has officially set this year's growth in fiscal expenditure at 9.3 per cent, against revenue growth of 9.9 per cent, for a targeted budget deficit of 66.68 billion yuan (\$8 billion).

The spending surge has placed an extra burden on central finances, which are

According to final accounts published in June, China posted a budget deficit of \$57.4 billion last year.

Meanwhile, Chinese economists have warned the government it must keep annual growth and inflation below 10 per cent to avoid overheating the economy and thus threatening the country's development.

The recommendation came from experts at the State Statistics Bureau in a report

on economic development during the current five year plan (1991-95), part of which was published in press reports Monday.

While highlighting the "remarkable" economic progress of the past five years and acknowledging government efforts to rein in inflation, the report said serious problems remain.

Rising prices and falling agricultural production are the main concerns along with

crippling losses by state enterprises, and the widening wealth gap between regions and social classes.

Gross domestic product (GDP) has grown by an average 11.7 per cent between 1991 and 1995, according to the experts, who based their

calculations on an estimate for this year.

GDP grew 10.3 per cent in the first six months of this year over the same period of 1994, the authorities have announced.

The press reports did not give the experts' inflation

estimate for this year, or the past five years. But the statistics bureau said last week that the year-on-year consumer inflation rate in July was 14.6 per cent.

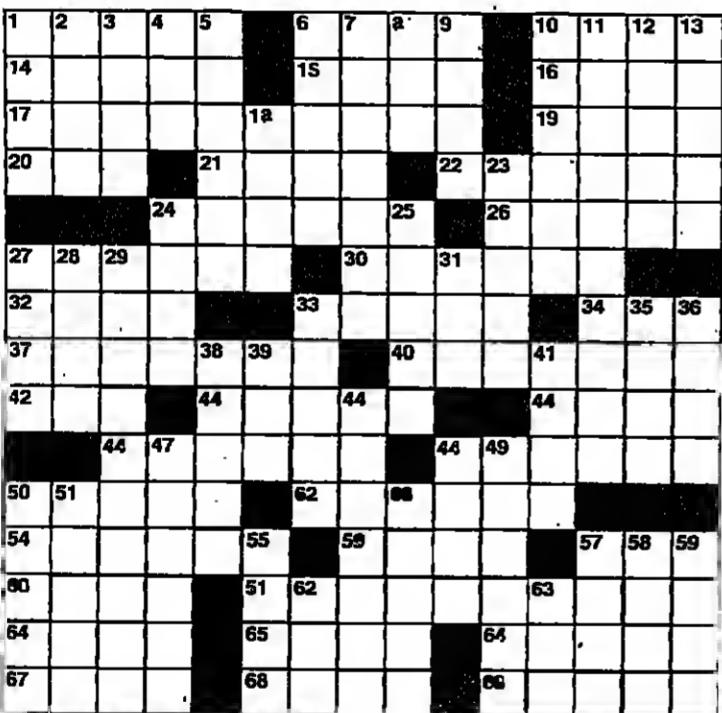
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Jordan Times
Tel: 667171

THE Daily Crossword by Harvey Chew

ACROSS
1 Crow
6 Peruse
10 Govt. agent
14 Sir Galahad's suit
15 Whirlpool
16 A Kennedy
17 Imperil
19 Poker term
20 Invile
21 Aurally handicapped
22 Best performance
24 Braided cordage
26 Native Indian soldier
27 Stroller
30 Cuban leader
32 Asian mountain range
33 Distinctive class
34 Meadow
37 Substitute for
40 — knol
42 Luau dish
43 Certain grain
45 Hebrew priest
46 WA city
48 Natural ability
50 Bell town
52 Figure of speech
54 Make wider
56 Dickens girl
57 Out of each hundred: abbr.
60 Sere
61 Treat milk in a way
64 Labyrinth
65 Dies —
66 Take it easy
67 Appear
68 Low islets
69 Use

DOWN
1 — California
2 Mine extracts
3 In a frenzy
4 Bribe
5 Merchant
6 V-shaped fortification
7 Building
8 Tool with a curved blade



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Yesterday's puzzle solved:



Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt 'n' Jeff



Kuwaiti government faces battle with parliament over debt

KUWAIT CITY (AFP) — The Kuwaiti government is lobbying hard to win a vote in parliament Tuesday that would ease repayment terms for billions of dollars owed to the state mainly by wealthy Kuwaitis, members of parliament said.

The government needs 31 votes in the 60-seat parliament to win passage of the bill which would extend the repayment period for 5.9 billion dinars (\$17.7 billion) in debt.

It has asked all 16 cabinet ministers who are also members of parliament, as well as those who were sick or on vacation, to attend the full session on Tuesday, the parliamentarians told AFP.

The bill has drawn strong criticism from MPs and economists who say it favours the rich and hurts the treasury.

The debt derives from the 1982 crash of an unofficial stock exchange and was aggravated by Iraq's 1990-1991 invasion of Kuwait. The government in 1992 bought out the commercial banks' holdings of the dubious loans.

The list of debtors was never made public, but diplo-

mats said they were not only from the country's big merchant families but also from the Sabah royal family.

"The government will be in difficulty if it persists in its plan to ease or reschedule debts favouring the richest people at the expense of the treasury," parliament's economic committee advisor Jassem Al Saadoun said.

MPs close to the government will be in an uncomfortable position if they back a bill which the public rejects," he said.

Parliament's finance and economy committee Saturday rejected for a second time provisions on extending the repayment period. It said the bill "should be applied as it was adopted (in 1993) in order not to hurt public property."

Under a 1993 law, the debtors had the choice of a cash-settlement option with a 45 per cent write-off to be made over two years starting Sept. 6.

The government's bill, which came in response of the debtors' plea for better terms as the Sept. 6 deadline drew nearer, stretches the cash settlement option to five years.

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ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Try not to forego some lucrative new venture because you may have a secret worry this morning, and later today concentrate on confidential matters.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Handle some responsibility early so that later today you can gain some cherished wish and go after it without worry.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Don't permit some unscrupulous partner to keep you from doing your tasks or you can get into trouble.

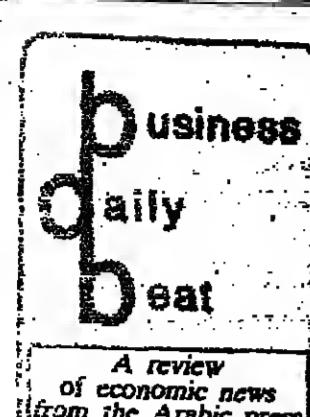
MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Some dull task should not be permitted to deter you from making better plans for later today for you to be successful.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Forget that good time you have in mind today and concentrate on whatever is practical and later tonight improve your position in life.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Some home task can be postponed for later today so that you can come to a better meeting of minds with fellow associates.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Some bothersome missive could keep you from tasks which have to be completed and which have to be completed and which could be lucrative, if you permit.

SC



**Investment
Promotion
Law benefits
107 projects
capitalised
at JD270m**

**Analysts: British
banks face uphill
task to boost profits**

LONDON (AFP) — Britain's four largest clearing banks must cut costs or expand to improve performance in this fiercely competitive market, since lower bad debt provisions will no longer boost their results, according to analysts here.

Midland Bank's results on Monday brought the combined half-year profit of the "big four" U.K. clearing banks, Barclays, NatWest, Midland and Lloyds, to a total of £3.259 billion (£5.14 billion), 15 per cent up over the first six months last year.

Barclays performed the best in the pack, posting profits up 8.7 per cent to £1.125 billion, but still less impressive than last year's interim results when it tripled profits.

National Westminster Bank (NatWest), now the number one terms of assets, increased profits by 26 per cent to £68 billion from £54 million.

Lloyds, raised profits by 21 per cent to £735 million and Midland, owned by HSBC Holdings, lifted profits by 14 per cent to £527 million.

"One can question to what extent these results are proof of a real improvement in performance," one analyst said.

"Up to now, the banks have benefited from the recovery of the British economy, which has allowed them to lower their bad debt provisions, with the number of banking staff down by 100,000 over the past five

years."

But this situation cannot last, and the clearing banks will have to find other ways of boosting results now,

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Growth of Indian economy

According to the Economic Survey, the year 1994-95 saw the fastest growth of Indian economy in the last four years. After the crisis-induced low growth of 0.9 per cent in 1991-92, the economy had already responded smartly to wide-ranging reform measures to record growth of 4.3 per cent in each of the years 1992-93 and 1993-94.

The current year has seen an acceleration of growth to 5.3 per cent led by strong, broad-based industrial growth of around 8 per cent and supported by a robust agricultural performance. The performance of the external sector continued to be strong with exports growing by more than 17 per cent in dollar terms in the first ten months of the



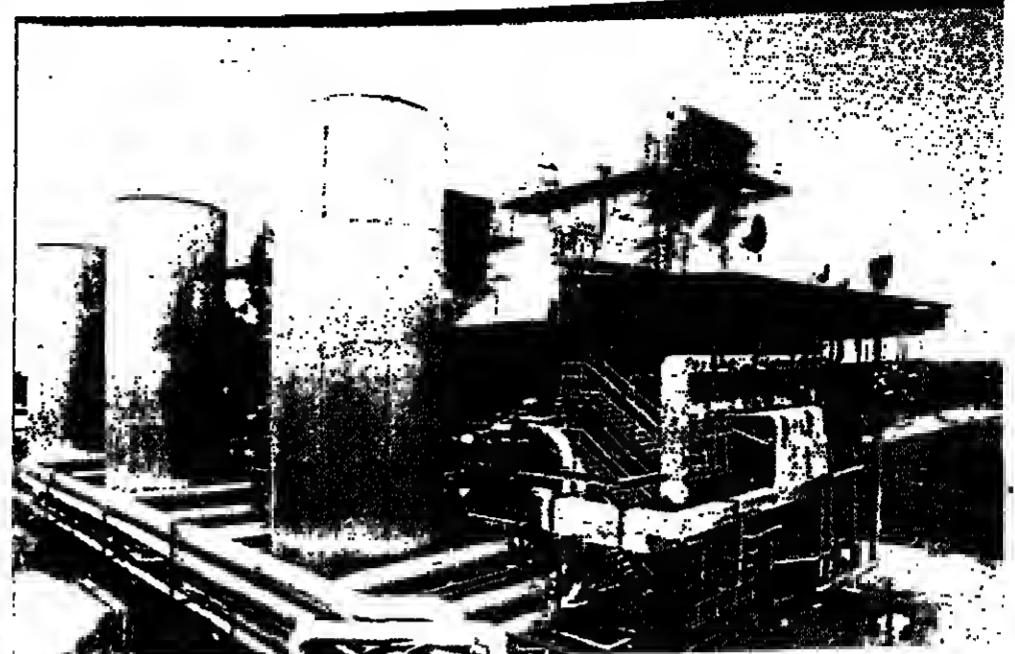
Panoramic view of India pavilion at India International trade Fair - 95, New Delhi

year, the balance on invisibles climbing to over a billion dollars in the first six months of the year and foreign investment (direct plus portfolio) of \$3.9 billion in April-December, 1994. Despite a surge in non-oil imports reflecting the strong industrial recovery, the current account deficit in the balance of payments is unlikely to exceed half a per cent of GDP in 1994-95 and foreign currency reserves have risen by over \$4.5 billion since the beginning of the financial year as of February 13, 1995.

The remarkable progress made by the Indian economy, since the difficult days of the 1991 economic crisis can be gauged by the fact that industrial production, which virtually stagnated in 1991-92, is expected to grow by 8 per cent in 1994-95, foodgrains production had declined to 168 million tonnes in 1991-92, it is expected to attain a record high of 185 million tonnes in 1994-95. From a level of hardly one billion dollars in June 1991, foreign currency reserves had climbed to over \$19.5 billion in mid-February 1995.

In India, private investment appears to have responded much more positively to reform policies. A number of measures have been announced to facilitate private entry into areas of infrastructure which were formerly the preserve of the public sector, with a view to freeing scarce

public resources for social sectors. These include natural resource sectors and non-tradable infrastructure services such as electricity, internal transport and telecommunications. Among



National Thermal Power Corporation: Gas Power Station in Kota, Rajasthan State.

important developments are, 13 minerals were de-reserved for exploitation by private sector, in power sector, for generation of 58745 megawatts of power, private air taxi operation with nine such

operators granted "scheduled airline" status etc. The economic survey makes out a strong case for lifting quantitative curbs on consumer goods imports and further tailoring the foreign in-

vestment policy to attract from abroad the "wave of

labour-intensive consumer goods producers

which generated high

growth of exports and

employment in south-east

Asia and China.

India: A friend and partner

By Sayel Khataybeh

INDIA AND Jordan today enjoy extremely cordial and friendly relations based on the principles of the Non-Aligned Movement and the United Nations charter. Apart from being the lands of ancient civilisations, both India and Jordan stepped as sovereign, independent states in world politics almost simultaneously, Jordan in 1946, and India in 1947.

India is the biggest market for phosphates and potash after the Gulf war, when India became number one in its trade exchange with Jordan.

From 1990 to 1995 India's total imports from



Miss World, Ms. Aishwarya Rai displaying Indian jewellery

Congratulations On the occasion of the Independence Day of India

Mohammad Said Kalash has the pleasure to extend his heartfelt congratulations and best wishes to the Indian President and people, wishing them and their leadership every success and progress.

Mohammad Said Kalash
Amman, Jordan



MODERN VEHICLE TRADING CO.

Agents of TATA in Jordan

and

ELBA HOUSE CO. LTD

Manufacturers of TATA Buses in Jordan

Congratulate the president and the people of India on the occasion of the

INDEPENDENCE DAY



HIJAZI & GHOSHE

Industrial, Agricultural and Trading Group for Food Stuff

represented by its General Manager: Mr. Issam Hijazi offer the Indian President, Government and people their best wishes and congratulations on

the Independence Day of India

wishing the president and people of India continued health and progress.

On the occasion of the Independence Day of India Indo-Jordan Scholars Club

conveys its hearty greeting to the government and the Indian people

On the occasion of the Independence Day of India

Kawar Drug Store

conveys its hearty greeting to the government and the Indian people



Jordan Fertilizer Industry Coordination Committee



Jordan Phosphate Mines Company



Arab Potash Company

Wish the people of India a happy Independence day affirming Jordanian friendship and hopes of continued progress and prosperity

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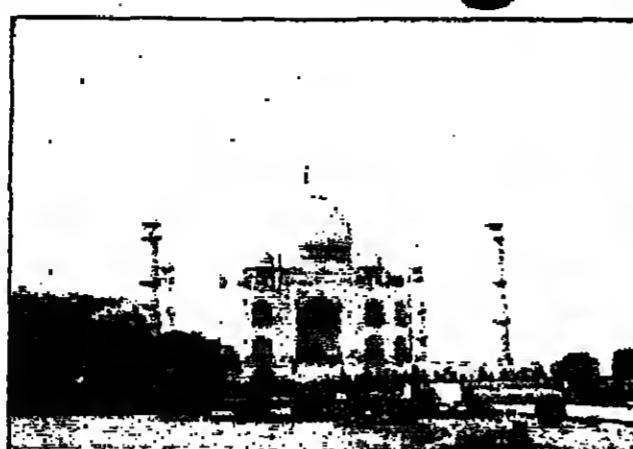
India at a glance

India is a country with a great cultural and geographical diversity. The peninsula is caressed by the Indian Ocean in the south, and in the north, the loftiest mountains of the world, the Himalayas, stand guard. At its heart are the fertile alluvial plains of the Ganges.

India is a Sovereign Democratic Republic, and follows the Parliamentary System of Government. Administratively, it comprises 26 states and 6 centrally administered Union Territories. India is the seventh largest nation in the world with the second largest population. Hindi and English are widely spoken all over the country.

Major Cities

City	Local Language	Population (millions)	Temperature (max.)	(min.)
Bangalore	Kannada	5.1	38°C	15°C
Bombay	Mumbai	12.8	33°C	16°C
Calcutta	Bengali	10.9	36°C	18°C
Chennai	Tamil	1.1	35°C	14°C
Delhi	Hindi	10	45°C	5°C
Hyderabad	Telugu	4.3	39°C	7°C
Madras	Tamil	5.4	38°C	13°C
Pune	Marathi	2.5	38°C	12°C



Statistical Profile

Area: 3.29 Million Square Kilometres
Population: 900 million
GDP at current prices (1993-94): U.S.\$225 billion.
Per Capita Income U.S.\$220.7

Exports (1993-94): U.S.\$22.50 billion

Imports (1993-94): U.S.\$23.58 billion

Major Exports: Tea, Coffee, Marine Products, Iron Ore, Cotton Fabrics and Readymade Garments, Leather and leather products, Gems and Jewellery, Machinery, Transport Equipments and Metal manufacturers including Iron and Steel, Petroleum products etc.

Major Imports: Fertilizers, Edible oils, Nonferrous metals, Petroleum products and related material, Iron and Steel, Pearls, Precious and Semi-precious stones, Machinery and Transport Equipment, Organic and Inorganic Chemicals etc.

Currency Unit:

Rupee
1 Rupee = 100 paise

Exchange Rate: U.S.\$1 = Rs. 31 (approx.)

International Airports: New Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta, Madras, Hyderabad, Thiruvananthapuram, Bangalore



On the occasion of the
INDEPENDENCE DAY OF INDIA

Dr. Naser Al Maaitah, director of
Zarqa University Services Est.
conveys its hearty greeting to the government
and the Indian people

JOINT VENTURE OF AQABA GULF CLEARING AND TRANSPORT CO. ARABIAN GULF SHIPPING CO. AMMAN - JORDAN

congratulates the government and people of
the Republic of India on the eve of the
INDEPENDENCE DAY OF INDIA
and hopes for further strengthening of
jordanian - Indian relations.
SAMI ZAROUR & IBRAHIM JUMA

ON THE OCCASION OF THE INDEPENDENCE DAY OF INDIA

THE JORDANIAN-INDIAN FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY

CONGRATULATES

THE INDIAN PEOPLE WITH
ITS BEST WISHES FOR A
BETTER FUTURE AND
PROSPERITY



ON THE OCCASION OF THE INDEPENDENCE DAY OF INDIA

jjc INDO - JORDAN CHEMICALS CO. LTD.
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CONVEYS ITS FELICITATIONS AND CORDIAL
WISHES TO THE PEOPLE OF INDIA

King: Time for change in Iraq

(Continued from page 1)

"I cannot really say what he is going to do, but the people of Iraq will answer to the fact that something needs to be done and he can stay here as long as he wishes. He might visit some Arab states in the coming period, but nothing has been decided yet. 'We try to do what we can to ensure his safety as a guest.'

Ekeus to go to Iraq soon

(Continued from page 1)
according to an Iraqi paper. Iraq said meanwhile Gen. Hassan defected after he lost a power struggle within President Saddam's government and that the country's enemies were "betting on a losing horse."

Palestinians vow revenge

(Continued from page 1)

However, since the 1993 autonomy accord with Israel, the 18-member committee has never failed to endorse a move by Mr. Arafat. Mr. Arafat arrived in the Tunisian capital on Monday for the meeting of the Executive Committee and a parallel meeting of the Central Committee of his own Fatah fac-

Jordan-Iraq ties normal

(Continued from page 1)

"Jordan would not allow that," he said. "We have enough loyalty and nationalism that commit us to keep Iraqi secrets," he said.

The prime minister said that the visits of foreign officials to the country this week were prearranged and were not linked to Gen. Hassan's defection.

On Saturday, the commander of the American Central Command, Lieutenant General James Henry Peay, visited the Kingdom. The British Minister of State for the Armed Forces Nicholas Soames, visited Jordan Sunday and Monday.

The American official's visit had been planned six months ago" Sharif Zeid said. "The purpose of the visit was coordination of military exercises planned years ago," he said. "As for the British minister, his visit to Jordan was part of a tour in the region."

In interviews with the Jordan Times after the meeting

received assurances from the government that Jordan will not let Iraqi opposition use Jordan as a base to conduct any activity against Iraq," he said.

However, Hamzeh Mansour, an Islamic Action Front (IAF) deputy, said the government avoided many of the deputies' questions.

Leftist Deputy Toujan Faisal said the government's reaction was very traditional.

"There is nothing decisive about it," she said. "It was very general."

Bassam Enoush, another IAF deputy, criticised Minister of Information Khalid Karaki for broadcasting Gen. Hassan's press conference on Saturday on Jordan Television "three times in full." He said that the minister and the

government should not have given the Iraqi general such media access and coverage.

"If we had a strong Parliament, it would have demanded the government's resignation," he said.

Leftist Deputy Toujan Faisal said the government's reaction was very traditional.

"There is nothing decisive about it," she said. "It was very general."

"He (Mr. Kabariti) laughed and advised us to be patient," Dr. Enoush said. "You should wait and see, there are things in the way," Dr. Enoush quoted the foreign minister as saying.

He also quoted the prime

minister as saying that the visit of Saudi Prince Turki Al Faisal to Jordan on Saturday was related to Gen. Hassan.

"Jordan has hosted political asylum seekers before, why did not they receive the same treatment?" Dr. Enoush asked. "If the government wants to launch a coup d'état why doesn't he go to the north of Iraq and launch it from there?"

Lower House Speaker Sa'd

Hayel Srour dismissed all insinuations that Jordan was seeking to improve its ties with Saudi Arabia at the expense of its relations with Iraq.

"Jordan is working on improving its relations with Saudi Arabia for a long time," Mr. Srour told the Jordan Times. "But we have

never built relations with a country at the expense of another."

In a statement issued by Parliament following the meeting and read by Mr. Srour, parliamentarians confirmed that "this event has no political implications on the Jordanian-Iraqi relationship and that Jordan continues to maintain the same policy towards Iraq, especially in its efforts to lift the embargo on the Iraqi people, to keep open borders between the two countries and not to allow any activity to be carried out from the Jordanian land that is in contradiction with the country's principles and beliefs that are based on non-interference with other countries' internal affairs."

become a party to the fighting. Mr. Soames also defended his country's position in refusing to end the arms embargo on Bosnia, saying such a move will only lead to an escalation of hostilities.

The Organisation of Islamic Conference, frustrated at the failure of the U.N. to protect Bosnian Muslims, last month said it considers the arms embargo invalid and urged its lifting.

Soames ends visit to Jordan

(Continued from page 1)

World of the West's policies towards Bosnia.

The British official brushed aside suggestions the war in Bosnia is a religious war, insisting that it is a multi-ethnic conflict and adding that Britain aims to end the fighting within the con-

text of a multi-ethnic state.

Mr. Soames, who also had talks with Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker on bilateral ties and the situation in Yugoslavia, said that his tour of the region was prompted by Britain's alarm at what he described as the lack of appreciation and understanding of its efforts to find a "just and lasting solution" to the war

in the rump Yugoslavia.

He said Britain never abandoned its responsibility in former Yugoslavia.

The British official reiterated Western views that there can be no military solution to the conflict in former Yugoslavia and that a diplomatic settlement is the only realistic approach.

He said the United Nations mission in former Yugoslavia is strictly aimed at "keeping the peace" and that its forces will not

World Athletics Championships

Johnson is America's tower of power

Arab World celebrates gold by Morceli, Boulmerka and Shou'a

GOTHENBURG (AFP) — Michael Johnson may have towered over the athletics world championships here, but the United States failed in their bid for total global domination.

Instead, the 10-day extravaganza danced to a pulsating Calypso Haitian born Bruny Surin exercised the ghost of Ben Johnson by taking gold and silver in the 100m, and then led Canada to victory in the 4x100m relay.

Glory was not confined to those who deserved their birthplaces, Jamaica's Merlene Ottey, the nearly woman of sprinting over the last 15 years, gained a bonus gold medal to add to her 200m success in 1993 at Stuttgart as she denied Gwen Torrence a sprint double. The American was disqualified from the 200m after stepping out of her lane on the bend.

Troy Kemp of the Bahamas deposed Cuba's Javier Sotomayor in the high jump, Cuba's Ivan Pedroso did the same to American Mike Powell in the long jump and there were surprise medals for Trinidad's world junior sprint champion Ato Boldon in the 100m, Bahamas' Pauline Davis in the 400m and Jamaican James Beckford in the long jump.

To round it all off, the Cuban "comeback kid" Ana Fidelia Quirot won the 800 metres. Barely three years after she all but died in a domestic accident she proved a class apart from her rivals.

Failure through injury was to curse many of what may now be considered "yesterday's stars."

Linford Christie made a valiant attempt to retain his 100 metre title with a hamstring injury while Carl Lewis, who never made the long jump, Heike Drechsler who spiked her leg in the heptathlon and Jackie

Joyner-Kersee, who went home after the long jump added to the roster of disappointments.

Even the mighty Kenyans left Sweden under something of a cloud.

Moses Kiptanui completed a hat-trick of world titles in the 3,000m steeplechase and Ismael Kirui kept his 5,000m title, but Ethiopian Haile Gebrsellasie denied them the coveted 10,000m prize and Wilson Kipketer — Kenyan born and bred but now a successful export — won the 800m for Denmark.

Sergei Bubka bucked the trend, completing a clean sweep of all five pole vault titles since the world championships started in 1983.

And Algerian Noureddine Morceli, holder of four world records, proved he is one of the greatest middle distance runners of all time by romping home for a third consecutive 1,500m title.

Smiling Sonia O'Sullivan buried the ghost of her Stuttgart defeat to the Chinese team, absent in Gothenburg, by winning the 5,000m and becoming the first Irishwoman to win a world title.

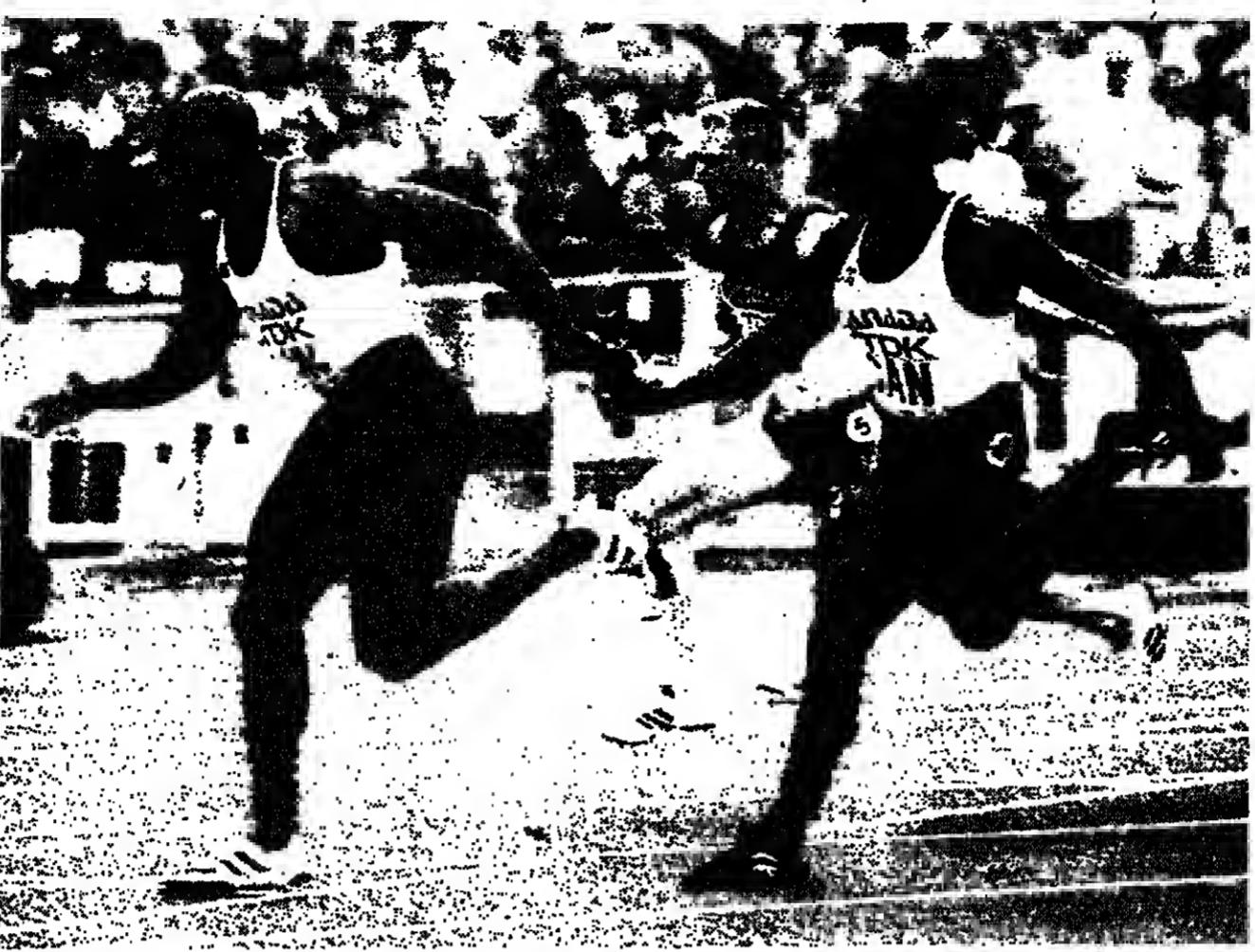
But for the United States, it was a bitter-sweet championship home for a third consecutive 1,500m title.

They utterly dominated the medals table and the Johnson express train completed its historic 200/400m double right on schedule, and then stopped off for a 4x400m gold on the last day.

But Americans botched the glamour events they hold most dear.

For the first time since the 1976 Olympics, there was no American among the men's 100m medals. Mike Marsh, the only one to make it to the final, summed up his feelings in the starting blocks: "Lonely."

Their 4x100m relay, unbeaten in world championships,



Canada's Bruny Surin (right) hands the relay to Donovan Bailey to win the men's 4x100m final (AFP photo)

performed a repeat of their Olympic fiasco seven years ago, going out in the qualifiers after bungling the changeover.

In Seoul, they dropped the baton. In Gothenburg, the baton never made it from Jon Drummond to Theo McCall, who ran out of the changeover area.

"I put my hand out. It never came. The rest is history," said McCall after the humiliation.

And three steps may lead some to heaven but they led Torrence to hell in the 200m.

The 30-year-old unwittingly trod on the line several times as she rounded the bend, before hitting the straight with an awesome display of power running.

Torrence had the last laugh on the elegant 35 year old Jamaican, beating her down the final straight as she crossed the line in the 4x100m relay.

On the brighter side, Kim Batten set a 400m hurdles world record, as she edged fellow American Tonja Buford by one hundredths of a second.

Both women were well inside the previous mark set by



Noureddine Morceli (left) of Algeria is embraced by Moroccan Hissam Al Guerrouri after the men's 1500m final (AFP photo)

Sally Gennell, absent through injury, when the Englishwoman won the title in Stuttgart two years ago.

The race was also deprived of French gazelle Marie-José Pérec, who retained her

400m title but eventually ducked out of a double bid with injury worries.

If the Caribbean had plenty to celebrate here, so did the Arab World, who have never been so successful at a



Jamaica's Beverly McDonald gives the relay to Merlene Ottey (left) as Christie Gaines passes to Guseen Torrence during the women's 4x100m relay final which was won by the U.S. (AFP photo)

The final medal table after Sunday's competition at the World Championships:

Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
United States	12	2	5	19
Belarus	2	3	2	7
Germany	2	2	2	6
Italy	2	2	2	6
Cuba	2	2	0	4
Kenya	2	1	3	6
Canada	2	1	1	4
Portugal	2	1	1	4
Ukraine	2	0	1	3
Algeria	2	0	0	2
Russia	1	4	7	12
Jamaica	1	4	2	7
Britain	1	3	1	5
Bulgaria	1	1	1	3
Finland	1	1	0	2
Bahamas	1	1	0	2
Spain	1	1	0	2
Ethiopia	1	1	0	2
France	1	0	2	3
Ireland	1	0	0	1
Tajikistan	1	0	0	1
Czech Republic	1	0	0	1
Denmark	1	0	0	1
Syria	1	0	0	1
Morocco	0	3	1	4
Romania	0	2	0	2
Australia	0	1	1	2
Burundi	0	1	1	2
Zambia	0	1	0	1
China	0	1	0	1
Kazakhstan	0	1	0	1
Namibia	0	1	0	1
Beranda	0	1	0	1
Mexico	0	1	0	1
Surinam	0	1	0	1
Poland	0	0	2	2
Hungary	0	0	2	2
Trinidad	0	0	1	1
Dominica	0	0	1	1
Norway	0	0	1	1
Saudi Arabia	0	0	1	1
Brazil	0	0	1	1
Nigeria	0	0	1	1

Abu-Shakra Trading Agency

The leading Jordanian Company in the field of Fragrances & Cosmetics invites candidates to submit their applications for the following post:

Sales Ladies

Successful candidates must be a university graduate, have a good command of English and somewhat experienced.

For more details, please call 862060 between 8-1 and 3-6

Abu-Shakra Royal

The leading Jordanian Company in the field of Fine Crystals, Exclusive Porcelain and "Christofle" invites candidates to submit their applications for the following post:

Executive Sales & Marketing Lady

Successful candidate must be a university graduate, have a good command of English and somewhat experienced.

for more details, please call 862060 between 8-1 and 3-6

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If interested please contact location at Tel: 840324

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Wanted a chemical engineer or a chemist to be based in the regional office in Amman and reporting to the head office in Jebel Ali, Dubai, for the marketing and technical support of chromatography equipment in Jordan and the neighbouring Arab countries. Candidate must be fluent in English, own a car and driving licence, and age not to exceed 35 years.

Please send your C.V. to fax 657031 or P.O.Box 815396 Amman 11180 Jordan care of Tayma Co. Interview will be scheduled for the second week of September.

Swimmers seek China Olympic ban

ATLANTA (AFP) — Swimmers from four nations called for China to be banned from the 1996 Olympic pool without a tougher drug testing programme and blasted world governing body FINA for inaction harmful to the sport.

"If their use of drugs is as widespread as it seems to be, they shouldn't be there," said Australia's Kieren Perkins, men's world record holder in the 400m, 800m and 1,500m freestyles. Swimmers from Australia, Canada, New Zealand and the United States spoke out here Sunday on the final day of the Pan Pacific Championships. Absent from the group were swimmers from Japan, Asia's founding PanPac member.

China was banned from this meet for 19 positive drug tests over the past four years, during which time the nation's women became a world swim power. Swimmers here called for an in-depth investigation of China's swim programme to ensure a drug-free centennial Olympic meet.

"I've heard lots of talk about China. It's time somebody does something about it. It has gotten well out hand."

"The future of swimming isn't looking very good. This is staining the name of swimming in the world while nothing is being done. If nothing is done within a few years, it will be seen as a sport of drugged-up athletes."

John Leonard, World Swimming Coaches Association anti-doping committee chairman, announced a plan, backed by the swimmers, which calls for unannounced out-of-competition testing on all possible Olympic swimmers starting in January to ensure there are no drug cheats at the Olympics.

"This is the first great step to make sure the sport is clean," U.S. backstroke Brian Retterer said. "These people are cheating and it affects history. It cheats everyone involved."

Australia's Nicole Stevenson, the 1992 Olympic 200m backstroke bronze medalist, wonders who among her rivals might have escaped drug detection. She wants tighter testing within China's borders.

"It was like this with East Germany until the (Berlin) wall came down," she said. "I don't think the wall, or the communists, in China will fall. We have to have rules so people can get in there and see what is going on. If we don't, it's just going to encourage (cheating by) other nations who haven't had good performances."

The coaches group proposed all nations submit to FINA a list of possible Olympic swimmers and money for one drug test by January to allow tests of every Olympian multiple times before the Atlanta Games.

"It's a cheap price to pay for a clean Atlanta," he said.

The group, whose 1,200 members from 53 nations include China, backed off a threat of legal action to prevent Chinese swimmers from competing at the Olympics.

FINA officials have ignored swimmers to keep the Chinese happy, Leonard charged.

Pan Pacific Swimming

Australia's Riley challenges world mark

ATLANTA (AFP) — World champion Samantha Riley, inspired by anger over an earlier disqualification, nearly came away with a world record at the Pan Pacific Swimming Championships here.

The Australian suffered a controversial ouster from the 100-metre breaststroke Friday but came back to win the 200-metre breaststroke in two minutes, 24.81 seconds.

It was the second-fastest time in history and only five-hundredths of a second off fellow Aussie Rebeca Brown's world mark.

"I just can't believe it," she said. "I was so determined after what happened two days ago. I was pretty annoyed. I was just waiting for another race to come around to prove they were wrong and I didn't deserve to be disqualified."

"Now I'm disappointed because I think I could have had a chance at the (100m world) record."

Riley later helped the Australian 400m medley relay win gold in 4:02.93, the third-fastest time ever for that event.

Despite being tossed from the 100m for a stroke violation call by one judge, Riley was named outstanding woman of the meet. Scott Volkers, Riley's coach, saw the ouster as costing her the 200m world mark.

"She lost it on the turn at the 100, where she was being careful because of the DQ. She didn't want to take a chance," Volkers said. "I can see her swimming 2:23 pretty easily. She wasn't overly stressed. She will be better next year. She loves the pool here, if not the officials."

Riley was also sick during U.S. training and recovering from a stress fracture in her right ribs even before the disqualification.

"It was amazingly bad preparation," she said. "Everything that could go wrong did. Now I know that no matter what goes wrong at the Olympics here next year, I can handle it."

American Amy Van Dyken also feels ready for anything, even the top Chinese team that was banned from this meet because of 19 positive doping tests over the past four years.

Van Dyken won the 50m freestyle in 25.03 seconds, making her the third fastest woman ever in the event behind China's Le Jingyi and Yang Wenxi. Van Dyken discounts her times as drug-related although both passed doping tests.

"I'm the only person to swim that fast 'clean,'" Van Dyken said. "That makes me

MANHATTAN (R) — Spanish Martinez and Canadian Chanda 6-3 in the final. Martinez and her second wife Martinez, wife of Rubin, the final at hand. The second time, Martinez and Martinez, wife of Rubin, the final at hand. Martinez and Martinez, wife of Rubin, the final at hand. Martinez and Martinez, wife of Rubin, the final at hand. Martinez and Martinez, wife of Rubin, the final at hand. Martinez and Martinez, wife of Rubin

Israeli planes raid Palestinian base near Beirut

SIDON, Lebanon (Agencies) — Israeli warplanes blasted Palestinian bases south of Beirut on Monday in the latest strike, a second strike against a Palestinian group in less than two weeks.

Israeli fighter planes fired around 12 rockets in a series of raids on a hill above Hamra on the Lebanese coast where the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-GC) has a base.

An Israeli army spokesman said planes and helicopters raided targets of the PFLP-GC in Naameh, north of Israel's self-declared "security zone" in southern Lebanon.

Pilots reported that the targets were hit. All returned safely to base, the spokesman said.

The half-hour strike started several fires, and black plumes of smoke could be seen from Beirut, 30 kilometers to the north.

There were no immediate reports of casualties from the bombing.

But three motorists driving on the coastal highway were injured in a traffic pileup caused when dozens of people fled their vehicles to take cover from the attack, rescue workers said.

Palestinian fighters cordoned off the region to prevent rescue workers and anyone else from stumbling across unexploded missiles, they said.

A spokesman for the Damascus-based PFLP-GC told Reuters the Israeli jets fired rockets into a medical centre for the group in the hills.

"The planes are coming from a time from over the sea. So far they launched anti-aircraft missiles against a medical centre. We have no news on that yet," the spokesman said.

PFLP-GC fighters fired anti-aircraft weapons at the jets, which dropped thermobaric bombs to avoid guerrilla anti-aircraft missiles, sources said.

The air attack followed an exchange of fire overnight between other Palestinian guerrillas and an Israeli gunboat patrolling off South Lebanon.

The Black September 13 brigades, a small Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) splinter group, claimed responsibility for firing at the Israeli boat. It said a guerrilla was wounded in an ensuing clash between the PLO and Israeli troops manning a coastal post in the area.

Kaddoumi demands immediate halt to rule talks

By Ghazi Odeh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A senior Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) official on Monday called on the Palestinian leadership to halt the ongoing rule negotiations and to conduct a comprehensive review of the developments since the signing of the Oslo accords two years ago.

Addressing a press conference in Amman, Farouk Kaddoumi, head of the PLO's Political Department, demanded that the United States formally recognise the PLO as the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

Mr. Kaddoumi, who presented to the press his own programme for peace, said that two years after the signing of the Oslo accords "we are still adamant in its position, totally disregarding the deadlines for implementing the provisions of the agreement and failing to honour its commitments concerning the withdrawal of its forces from the West Bank in a clear bid to perpetuate its occupation of Arab lands."

Addressing Arab countries of apathy towards the Palestinian cause, Mr. Kaddoumi said that the PLO had given "some" weight to the result that the PLO has lost all out Arab support for the Palestine cause.

Mr. Kaddoumi said that while at the beginning the Europeans supported the

guerrillas fired machineguns after midnight at the Israeli gunboat off Ras Al 'Ain south of the port city of Tyre, 25 kilometers north of the Lebanon-Israel border.

The boat returned fire, they added.

The Israeli navy has been imposing a fishing blockade on most of the southern Lebanese coast since March, barring fishermen from venturing more than one kilometer into the open sea or fishing at night.

The Black September 13 brigades, which is led by colonel Munir Maqdah, said its fighters fired three mortar bombs at an Israeli navy boat off Hamra in Israel's South Lebanon occupation zone and about 7 kilometers south of Ras Al 'Ain.

The group, which opposes the September 1993 PLO-Israeli peace pact, said one of its guerrillas was wounded in an exchange of fire with Israeli forces manning the Hamra post shortly afterwards.

Israeli raids against the PFLP-GC group have left three dead and nine wounded since the start of the year.

Israeli jets blasted a network of caves used by the PFLP-GC at Sultan Yacoub near the Syrian border in eastern Lebanon on Aug. 2, wounding five guerrillas.

In the last Israeli raid on Naameh on Jan. 13, three wounded. In 1994 six fighters were killed and five wounded in three Israeli attacks on the base.

An official of the PFLP-GC warned of violent retaliation after the Sultan Yacoub attack and said the Israeli action was aimed against Syria.

"Our response will be violent and swift and will target the enemy where it burns the most," said Abul Fida, a member of the group's executive committee.

The PFLP-GC, headed by former Syrian officer Ahmad Jibril, is one of 10 hardline groups based in Damascus which fiercely oppose the Arab-Israeli peace process.

It is the only Palestinian organisation to maintain military bases near Beirut. In theory, the Lebanese army dismantled all bases near South Lebanon and the capital in 1992 and only allows Palestinians to carry light arms inside refugee camps.

Christian opposition members in Lebanon have repeatedly asked the government why the PFLP-GC is allowed to maintain its bases but have not received an answer.



OUTDOOR TOURISTS: Young tourists from Eastern Europe still sleep at dawn under the Eiffel Tower. During the current clement weather, less well-off tourists spend the night under the stars on the grass of the Champs de Mars (AFP photo)

Israel steps up pressure against PLO in Jerusalem

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin gave a green light to officials on Monday to take legal action against the Orient House — the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) unofficial Jerusalem headquarters, officials said.

Jerusalem's Israeli mayor, Ehud Olmert, threatened to shut down the Orient House, which he says is illegally being used for offices although it is zoned as a hotel.

Police Minister Moshe Shahal meanwhile called for the closure of all institutions linked to the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) in East Jerusalem.

Mr. Shahal said he had had Mr. Rabin's support to move against the Orient House if it continued to ignore the city's demands that it apply for rezoning.

"The prime minister said he unequivocally supports my actions," Mr. Olmert said.

"The Orient House should be closed, and the faster the better for the quiet of Jerusalem."

Orient House officials have refused to apply for a permit, saying that they do not recognise the city's authority since Israel is an occupying power in East Jerusalem.

"We do not recognise Israel's unilateral actions," said Maan Erakat, a spokesman for the Orient House.

"They are illegal."

Education Minister Amnon Rubinstein said closing the Orient House was "absurd" and would lead to

the peace," he said, referring to protests by Jewish settlers.

The minister said Israel would open two new police stations in East Jerusalem.

Israel sees the Orient House as a symbol of the Palestinian claims to East Jerusalem. Israel insists it will never allow the city to be "redivided," but Palestinians want the eastern part of the city as capital of a future Palestinian state.

Mr. Olmert said he had had Mr. Rabin's support to move against the Orient House if it continued to ignore the city's demands that it apply for rezoning.

"Any claim that there are national authority institutions in Jerusalem should be raised and discussed at the liaison committee and not used to take direct measures against Palestinian institutions and non-governmental organisations on the pretext they are part of the national authority," the statement said.

Some 160,000 Palestinians live in the eastern sector, which Israel seized in the 1967 Middle East war.

Under the autonomy accord, negotiations on the question of Jerusalem are to begin between Israel and the PLO by next May.

The Palestinian National Authority announced in June that it would reestablish an Arab municipal council for Jerusalem. Israel dissolved the body 28 years ago.

Mr. Olmert, however, has been dismissed by Mineral and Energy Minister Piki Botha, who said last month South Africa had to act in its own best interests and that the deal could make money available for social projects.

"The Americans do not seem to be properly informed on what the deal is about," Mr. Botha said.

South African Strategic Fuel Fund General Manager Kobus Van Zyl was on Sunday quoted by public SABC radio as saying that South Africa might seek to increase the amount of oil it would allow Iran to store at Saldanha.

Mr. Van Zyl added that negotiations between the two countries on the stockpiling of the fuel had been going on for "more than 18 months" — when the previous apartheid government of Frederik de Klerk was still in power.

Early last month Mr. Van Zyl said the deal with Iran was likely to be concluded "before the end of July," but there has since been no official word if the deal has been finalised.

Mr. Van Zyl, who represents the PNA should not be transformed into a "tool for suppressing people for the sake of ensuring security for Israel." He stressed that the PLO should be safeguarded as the political and legislative body behind the PNA.

He called for the creation of a PNA of "national personalities" living inside the occupied lands, with the PLO's Executive Committee shouldering the responsibility of negotiations over the final stage with Israel.

America's opposition to

the deal, however, has been

reciprocal a visit by South African Foreign Minister Afred Nzo to Iran last November, a spokesman for the Iranian embassy in Pretoria said.

The Iranian diplomatic chief, accompanied by a ministerial delegation, is expected to hold talks with various South African ministers in Cape Town.

Soon after his arrival on

Tuesday, he and Mr. Nzo will

sign the agreement setting up

the joint commission be-

tween the two countries,

according to South African Foreign Ministry spokesman Pieter Swanepoel. He did not elaborate.

The discussions between

Mr. Velayati and South African ministers will focus, according to Swanepoel, on "questions of mutual interest."

The two countries restored

diplomatic relations after last

year's democratic elections in

April which swept Mandela's African National Congress to power.

The relationship between

Pretoria and Tehran was se-

vered by the 1979 revolution in

Iran.

Kuwaitis don't trust defector from Iraq

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwaitis view the high-level defector son-in-law of Iraq's President Saddam Hussein with deep hostility because of his Gulf war role, and one member of parliament said he is just "another Saddam."

The people of the small Gulf state remember the defector and military mastermind, Lieutenant-General Hussein Kamel Hassan, as a key player in Baghdad's 1990-91 occupation of Kuwait and the disastrous torching of its oil wells.

The Kuwaiti government says it is watching the defectors closely but has declined to comment until it has more information.

Newspapers earlier this month said the government was asking experts on international law how to prosecute 648 Iraqis including President Saddam for war crimes.

"He is another Saddam," deputy Adnan Abdul Samad told Reuters on Sunday.

"I do think we should be rather careful. He participated in all of Saddam's decisions and in many ways he is Saddam's student in political affairs," opposition parliamentarian Ismail Al Shatti said in a telephone interview.

"Trusting this man would be both ludicrous and lethal," said Khalid Nagi, a Kuwait University sociologist.

"He should be told the most he can look forward to is a plea bargain — earn a lighter sentence by helping to topple Saddam."

The general fled to Jordan on Aug. 8 with his brother, Lieutenant-Colonel Saddam Kamel Hassan, who was in charge of President Saddam's guards, and their wives, both daughters of the president.

At a news conference on Saturday, he also helped suppress a post-war revolt in southern Iraq with great brutality and was an accomplice in chemical attacks on the Kurdish population in the 1980s. Gen. Hussein denies helping kill best forgotten.

"This man is presenting himself as an heir apparent but in reality he would be just the new godfather of the same mafia," said Mr. Nagi, whose family is of Iraqi origin.

"If he would like to help the Iraqi opposition, then it might be one way to forgive some of his decisions, but he cannot be a president or a ruler," said Mr. Shatti.

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More pimps, prostitutes jailed in Beijing

BEIJING (R) — Sixteen Beijing prostitutes and pimps were sentenced to "reeducation through labour" in an escalating crackdown ahead of a high-stakes global women's conference in the capital, local media said Monday. The sentences ranging from 18 months to three years brought to 46 the number of local prostitution defendants sent in 1995 to reeducation camps, an administrative punishment that can be ordered without trial, the official Beijing Daily said. Officials said on Aug. 7 that Beijing police had rounded up 841 people on prostitution charges in the first seven months of 1995. Most were later freed. The operations aim to clean up the capital for the influx of tens of thousands of foreign and Chinese women, including world leaders, at the U.N. World Conference on Women in September and a related forum of grass-roots women's groups from Aug. 30 to Sept. 8. Authorities have raided at least 320 night spots suspected of tolerating prostitution, sealing 34 outright and suspending operations at 178. Municipal propaganda chief Qiang Wei has said the drive against prostitution will be intensified before the women's meetings, which the communist central government hopes will boost China's global prestige. Socialist puritanism had wiped out most prostitution after China's 1949 communist takeover, but the sex trade has flourished in recent years as 17 years of market reforms have left millions of Chinese flush with cash. Saunas, karaoke bars and dance halls and even roadside diners across China often serve as fronts for brothels, many of them run by police or other officials, state reports said.

Assad meets

DAMASCUS (AFP) — Syrian President Hafez al-Assad met Egyptian Minister Atif Saad on Monday to review the results of a joint committee for joint between the two countries.

"The government's move was based on a document published earlier this year by the Research and Studies Centre, a body attached to the cabinet, that listed Gen. Hassan as number four on a list of 'Iraqi war criminals,'" President Saddam said.

"Iraqi documents captured after the war show the general played a major role in supervising Iraq's military buildup to its 1990 invasion, the looting of Kuwait's armed forces, the blowing up of its oil wells and the scorched earth policy at the end of the occupation."

Kuwaitis say Gen. Hussein was one of a handful of Iraqis who helped formulate President Saddam's invasion plans.

Iraqi opposition groups say he also helped suppress a post-war revolt in southern Iraq with great brutality and was an accomplice in chemical attacks on the Kurdish population in the 1980s. Gen. Hussein denies helping kill best forgotten.

"This man is presenting himself as an heir apparent but in reality he would be just the new godfather of the same mafia," said Mr. Nagi, whose family is of Iraqi origin.

"If he would like to help the Iraqi opposition, then it might be one way to forgive some of his decisions, but he cannot be a president or a ruler," said Mr. Shatti.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Yemen invites Islamic ministers to meeting

JEDDAH (AP) — The Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) on Monday circulated a Yemeni proposal to host an urgent meeting of Islamic foreign ministers later this month. An OIC spokesman, who could not be named under existing rules, said Yemen wanted the meeting to discuss the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina and other issues. He also said the meeting would be convened if two-thirds of the 52 members approved the Yemeni proposal. A Yemeni government newspaper reported in Sanaa that the proposed date for the meeting was Sept. 26.

Clinton, Murayama to meet in Tokyo

TOKYO (AFP) — U.S. President Bill Clinton will hold talks with Japanese Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama in Tokyo in late November, a Foreign Ministry official said Monday. Vice Foreign Minister Sadayuki Hayashi said the meeting would be on Nov. 20 or 21, after the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum summit in Osaka, Japan on Nov. 19. He told a news conference Mr. Clinton would stay in Japan as a state guest after the APEC meeting.

6 killed in fight over cattle in Egypt

CAIRO (AP) — A fight between a Muslim and a Christian farmer over the cost of transporting cattle turned into a sectarian battle between two clans, killing six people and wounding 16. The fight erupted Sunday night in Bitlaq, northeast of Cairo in the Nile Delta, Egypt's agricultural heartland. The farmer who owned the cattle fought with a pickup driver, who was a Muslim. Police did not say how much money the two were fighting over. Members of both their families later got involved, using knives and guns, before police intervened. Four people were wounded seriously and several people were arrested, police said Monday. Egypt's 59 million are predominantly Muslim. Coptic Christians are the largest religious minority. Sectarian fights flare up periodically, often between large villages. Bitlaq is 150 kilometers northeast of Cairo.

Militants kill farmer in South Egypt

ASSUIT (R) — Suspected Muslim militants shot dead a farmer in a cornfield in the southern province of Minya, security sources said on Monday. They said Fathi Mabroud Mohammad, 60, was killed on Sunday evening as he worked with his son in a field near the town of Mallawi, about 260 kilometers south of Cairo. His son told police he recognised the two gunmen, who are believed to be members of the militant Al Gamaa Al Islamiyah (